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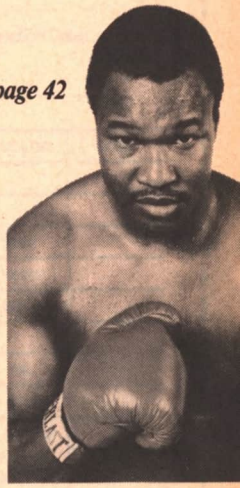

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Ringside

"You're the heavyweight champion of the world, and if some people have trouble accepting that, it's their problem. You're the quiet and dignified type, a Bible-reading belter from Georgia, so what you're doing in the back-stabbing business of boxing is hard to figure.

"You were in your late-20s when you won the big prize, but some of the wiseguys still say you're nothing more than a blown-up light heavyweight. You're following one of the greatest knockout punchers ever, which is the calendar's fault, not yours. And when your first big defense came against an old man who happened to be a legend, you knew you had been cornered into a no-win situation. Pretty ironic, since winning is all you've ever done.

"You're the heavyweight champion, and you're finding that all the prize money in the world can't buy you respect."

Jimmy Cannon on Evander Holyfield? Nope, it's Steve Farhood, doing a bad Cannon imitation, on Ezzard Charles.

Cannon and Farhood have both written boxing. There the similarities end. Charles and Holyfield, on the other hand, share a lot.

San Francisco's Jack Fiske, the dean of today's boxing writers, was ringside at the Cow Palace for Charles' October 1949 title defense against Pat Valentino. He remembers the date, the result, even the attendance; it was the first championship fight he ever covered. Thirty-five years later, watching Holyfield at the Olympic Box-Offs triggered his memory.

"He reminded me of Charles," Fiske said. "They looked alike and had the same demeanor, and they were both from Georgia."

Holyfield has since come a long way. The comparison with Charles still works, but on a different level. Like Charles, Holyfield is fighting for respect. Consider:

Holyfield followed Tyson; Charles followed Joe Louis. Holyfield lost for winning against George Foreman; Charles doomed his image by pounding the shell of Louis. Holyfield turned pro at light heavyweight and unified the cruiserweight title before jumping to heavyweight; Charles made eight successful defenses of the heavyweight crown, but is rated a full level, maybe two, below Johnson, Dempsey, Louis, Marciano, and Ali. Conversely, he never fought for the 175-pound crown, but is considered by many to be the greatest light heavyweight of all.

"There's definitely a correlation in the public's perception of the two," said Fiske. "Neither was accepted by the fans as the best around. But the people in boxing, the hard core, knew Charles was a good fighter all along."

Given his current standing, I'm sure Holyfield would settle for that.

***

Correction: In our May issue, we incorrectly identified Joe Cortez as the referee of last September's James Warring-James Pritchard IBF cruiserweight title fight. The third man was Joey Curtis.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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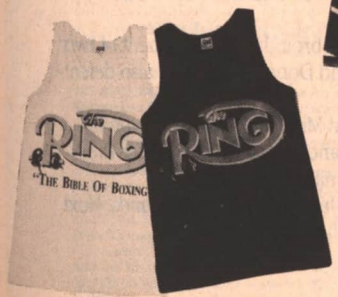

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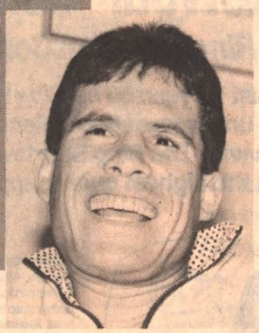


Chavez: Cashing in or out?

RISK THAT RECORD!

Could someone please tell me when Julio Cesar Chavez is going to cash in on his popularity and fight a name fighter, instead of the pitiful foes he's recently feasted on? It has been suggested that Meldrick Taylor and Pernell Whitaker are unavailable for Chavez. In other words, they're ducking him. Anyone with any knowledge of boxing realizes that is silly. Look at their recent opposition: Whitaker has faced Azumah Nelson and Jorge Paez; Taylor has faced Aaron Davis and Glenwood Brown. They're not ducking anyone.

C'mon, Chavez, show some *cojones* by risking that perfect record.

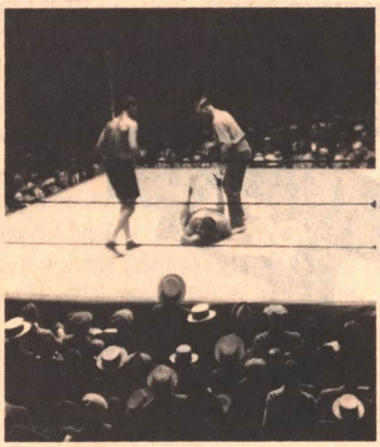
GREG ORTEGA
Las Vegas, NV

REWRITING HISTORY

Ed Maloney should be ashamed of himself for perpetuating the lie that Jack Dempsey hit low against Jack Sharkey ("A *Ring* Analysis: Boxing's Big-Fight Refs Don't Do Their Jobs," April 1992). This is a 65-year-old myth. Dempsey's punches were clearly just above the trunks. The truth is that Dempsey had taken Sharkey's best punches and had slowed Sharkey with body blows. In the photo you showed, Sharkey is turning away in pain, in the general direction of the referee, because he has been outpunched seven-for-one.

Why does *The Ring*, of all publications, sustain this lie?

BERNIE READER
Surrey, England



Dempsey kayos Sharkey

THE BAYS OF CARTAGENA

Regarding James Dusgate's story on Rodrigo Valdes ("The Middlewight Who Almost Had It All," March 1992): The article was great, but greater was the vivid description of Cartagena, Colombia. I'm going to save the story so that when someone comes along and says that all we boxing guys do is talk about the fights, I'll show him Dusgate's story, and the beautiful description of the bays of Cartagena.

Thanks for a super article.

TONY MAIURRO
Staten Island, NY

Norris retired Curry

YEAR VS. YEAR

I don't agree with your selection of James Toney as 1991's Fighter of the Year. Why Toney instead of "Terrible" Terry Norris?

Norris fought four times against top-rated fighters, and brought the retirement of two of the best champions of the '80s, Sugar Ray Leonard and Donald Curry. He also defeated Brett Lally and top-ranked Jorge Castro.

Toney was impressive only against Michael Nunn and Mike McCallum. He won by split decision against Merqui Sosa and Reggie Johnson, and was allowed to enter the ring a half-pound overweight against Francesco Dell'Aquila.

If Norris rises in weight and fights Toney, he'll knock him out in the late rounds. Next time, I hope you make a better selection for Fighter of the Year.

CESAR ALBARRAN TORRES
Huixquilucan, Mexico ■

July 1992 Volume 71, No. 7

The RING

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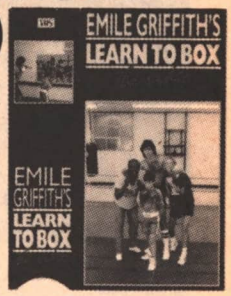

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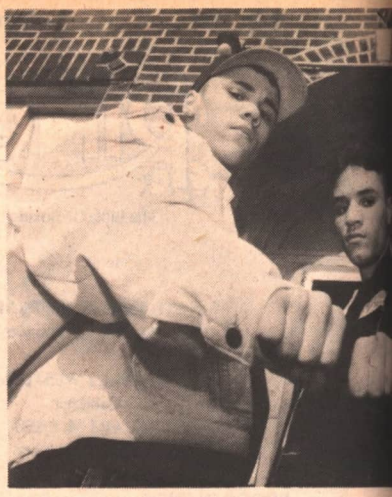


The Acevedo brothers: All champs

Wimpy: A nasty night

AN ANGRY EXHIBITION

The hook that drew a sellout crowd to Oklahoma City's Central Plaza Hotel on January 30 was a scheduled exhibition featuring former IBF heavyweight champion Tony Tucker and local favorite Wimpy Halstead.

It figured to be an easy-does-it four rounds. Neither fighter could afford injury—Tucker was training for a bout on Showtime, and Halstead was on the verge of securing a bout vs. Tommy Morrison.

There was no history of bad blood, but both heavyweights came in with attitudes. Halstead angrily stalked the ring during introductions, and after the referee's instructions—and an icy staredown—Tucker initially refused to touch gloves.

Seconds after the opening bell, Halstead bulled in with a high elbow. One of Tucker's handlers leaped onto the ring apron and screamed in protest. Boxing quickly decayed into ragged wrestling, and an enraged Tucker nearly threw Halstead out of the ring. When the heavyweights were separated and order was somewhat restored, Tucker stormed out of the arena and left for his hotel.

Halstead grabbed a ringside microphone and offered an apology, but the 1,000 fans were not pleased. Having been force-fed a farce, they're sure to next time take their $25 elsewhere.

—Bill Haisten

ARGUELLO'S TOUGHEST FIGHT

Last December, triple-crown champion Alexis Arguello returned to his native Nicaragua in an attempt to reclaim more than $1.5-million in property that had been seized by the former Sandanista government.

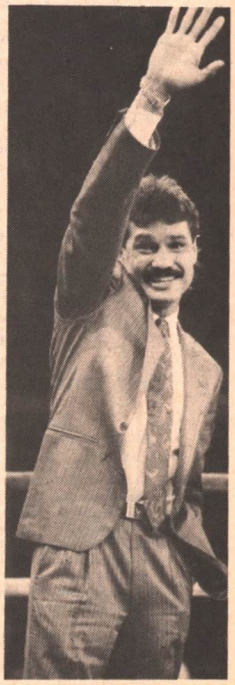
During Arguello's boxing career, the Sandanistas claimed two houses, a yacht, a jeep, two luxury cars, a motorhome, and Arguello's gym. According to the Nicaraguan newspaper *La Prensa,* Arguello's $45,000 Mercedes-Benz was shipped to Cuba and presented to the brother of Fidel Castro. And one of his homes is currently being occupied by a diplomat from the former Soviet Union.

The fight rages on. In the meantime, Arguello is working for the coalition government as a trainer of young fighters.

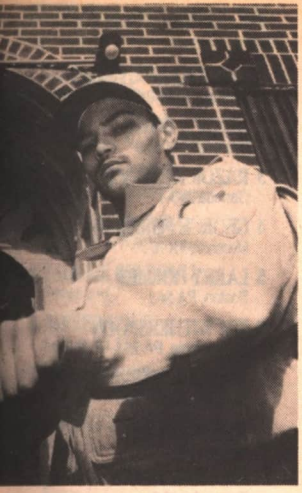
"I want to support the development of a new Nicaragua," he said, "and I want a boxing industry."

He also wants back what he had earned with his blood and fists.

—Kevin Baxter



Arguello: A different kind of fight



GOLDEN HAT TRICK

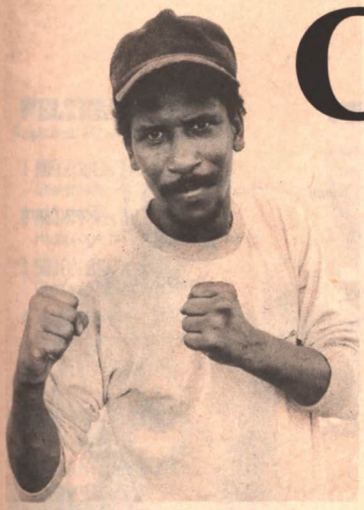
George, Danny, and Nick Acevedo made New York Golden Gloves history when they became the first trio of brothers to win titles in the same tournament. In the 65-year history of the competition, there have been at least five two-brother combinations to win titles, but no family had ever completed the hat trick.

This year's finals were held on consecutive nights at Madison Square Garden's Paramount. On the first evening, George, 19, easily won the 112-pound Open title, and Danny, 17, overcame former Gloves champion Radames Torres to win the 125-pound Open crown.

On the second night, Nick, 17, completed the family sweep by outslugging one of his best friends, Brian Adams, in the 132-pound Open final.

The Acevedo brothers, who are from Manhattan's Lower East Side, hope to duplicate the feat at the National Golden Gloves tournament in May, as well as the Olympic Trials in June.

—Robert Cassidy



Zapata: Arrested for robbery

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

A car driven by British super middleweight **Chris Eubank** careened off a London road and killed a workman. Police cleared him of any suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol. As we went to press, no charges had been filed . . . Former two-division world champion **Hilario Zapata**, profiled in last month's issue of *The Ring,* was arrested in Panama City for robbing a restaurant . . . Former IBF heavyweight champion **Tony Tucker** was ejected from an American Airlines flight en route from Los Angeles to Dallas for allegedly being abusive to the flight crew. According to police, the aircraft made an unscheduled landing in Phoenix to remove Tucker, who had shouted obscenities when flight attendants asked him to put on his seatbelt . . . In Philadelphia, **Anthony "Two Gun" Fletcher**, 36, was charged with murder in relation to a drug deal. Once a highly rated lightweight, Fletcher is the brother of former middleweight contender **Frank "The Animal" Fletcher**.

FOUR ROUNDS, TWO WINS

Thanks to the infinite wisdom of the Massachusetts Boxing Commission, local junior middleweight Brian Powers went from 11-0-1 to 13-0-1—in 75 minutes.

On a card that featured former contender Robbie Sims, Powers was scheduled for a six-round undercard bout vs. James Scott. In the first round, Scott, a late substitute from Philadelphia, swung wildly and, for most of the three minutes, desperately clinched. After returning to his corner, he engaged in an argument with his handlers, and at the bell for round two, he climbed through the ropes and marched to his dressing room.

As the 1,000 fans in attendance pelted the ring with paper cups and ice, Scott was informed that his purse would be withheld. That apparently made him brave, and he told the commission that he wanted to fight again.

"Brian Powers sold something like 350 tickets, so when the managers and promoters got them together for another fight, we thought it was good judgment if we allowed it," said commissioner Tommy Rawson.

After Sims triumphed in the main event, Powers and Scott, whose automatic suspension was lifted only minutes after it had been issued, reentered the ring. This time, Powers scored two knockdowns en route to a second-round kayo victory.

"If I fight twice again," said Powers, "I want to get paid twice."

—Jay N. Miller

BOOKING THE HEAVIES

An interesting item from Editor Harry Mullan's column in *Boxing News:* British bookie Ivor Thomas is offering a novelty bet on who will be the undisputed heavyweight champion on December 31, 1992. Prices were issued on 11 fighters. Evander Holyfield is 2-1, Riddick Bowe and Mike Tyson 7-2 (the odds were posted before Tyson's rape conviction), Michael Moorer 4-1, Lennox Lewis 9-2, Razor Ruddock 8-1, George Foreman 10-1, Frank Bruno 12-1, Tony Tucker 16-1, Ray Mercer 20-1, and British prospect Herbie Hide 25-1.

Anyone interested in betting on Bruno should contact *The Ring*. We promise we'll do better than 12-1. ■

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended March 17, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *26-0 (World Champ)*

2 RIDDICK BOWE
Brooklyn, NY *28-0*

3 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *26-3-1*

4 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *70-3*

5 LARRY HOLMES
Easton, PA *54-3*

6 TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA *35-3*

7 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *42-1*

8 LENNOX LEWIS
England *19-0*

9 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *27-0*

10 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *18-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *43-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *29-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *42-1-1*

4 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *52-5-1*

5 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *16-0*

6 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *21-1*

7 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *30-2-1*

8 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *16-1*

9 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *20-0*

10 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *24-2*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *31-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *54-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 VERNON PHILLIPS
New York, NY *14-5*

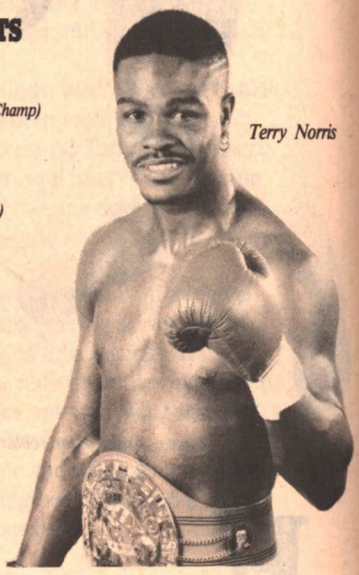
6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *32-1*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *30-1-1*

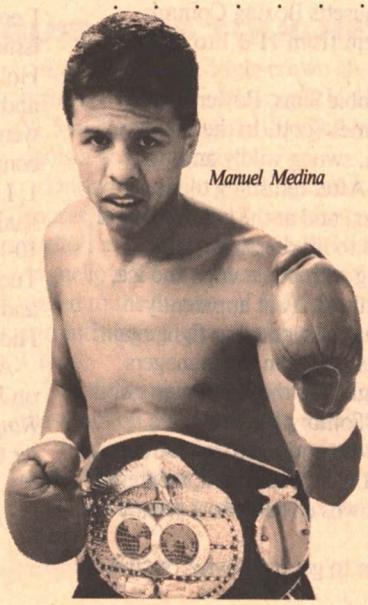
8 JORGE CASTRO
Argentina *64-3-2*

9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *33-1*

10 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *26-1*



Terry Norris



Manuel Medina

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *19-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *40-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *20-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *27-0*

5 MAURIZIO STECCA
Italy *44-1*

6 JESSE JAMES LELIA
San Antonio, TX *22-0-1*

7 MARCOS VILLASANA
Mexico *54-8-2*

8 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *27-2-1*

9 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *12-5-4*

10 LOUIE ESPINOZA
Phoenix, AZ *44-5-2*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1*

2 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *30-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 RAUL PEREZ
Mexico *49-2-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *44-5-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *32-3-2*

6 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *40-4*

7 KENNEDY MCKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *20-0-1*

8 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina *27-3*

9 TRACY PATTERSON
New Paltz, NY *44-2*

10 JEMAL HINTON
District Heights, MD *21-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

2 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *39-5 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *33-2 (WBC Champ)*

5 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

6 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *20-1*

7 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *31-3*

8 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-2-1*

9 **AKIM TAFER**
France *13-3*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *37-8-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Australia *31-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *30-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

6 **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI**
Germany *32-0*

7 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

8 **ANTHONY HEMBRICK**
Beckley, WV *23-2-1*

9 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *30-1*

10 **GUY WATERS**
Australia *14-2-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *37-1*

3 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *30-0*

4 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *28-7 (IBF Champ)*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *19-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

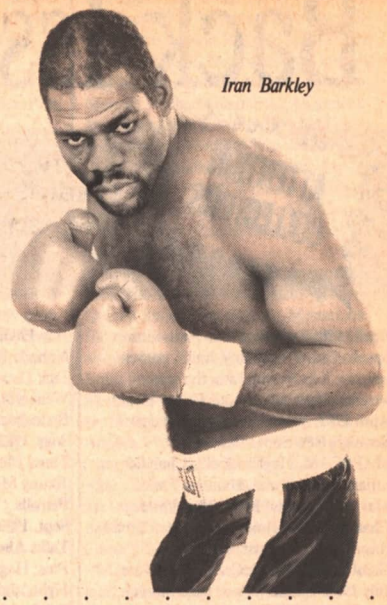
6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *31-2*

7 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *18-0*

8 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-3*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2-1*



Iran Barkley

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *29-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *40-2-2*

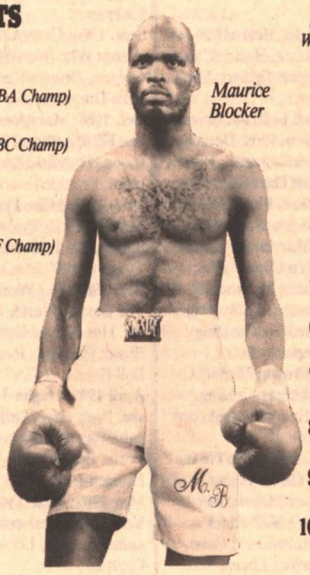
6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *34-3*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

9 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *28-1-1*

10 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *37-0*



Maurice Blocker

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *78-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *28-1*

3 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *27-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *37-4 (WBA Champ)*

5 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *48-7-2*

6 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *24-1*

7 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

8 **PAT BARRETT**
England *32-1-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *29-4-1*

10 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *29-2-1*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

2 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *39-4-4*

3 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1*

4 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *38-4*

5 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *27-0*

6 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

7 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *31-1*

8 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *26-0*

9 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *25-0*

10 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *28-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *25-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *26-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *38-3-1*

5 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

6 **EUGENE SPEED**
Palmer Park, MD *22-0*

7 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *28-1-1*

8 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *28-1*

9 **YUJI WATANABE**
Japan *7-0*

10 **RENATO CORNETT**
Australia *19-1-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *30-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 **EDDIE COOK**
Las Vegas, NV *17-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
Japan *7-0-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JUNIOR JONES**
Brooklyn, NY *22-0*

5 **VICTOR RABANALES**
Mexico *28-10-2*

6 **DUKE McKENZIE**
England *30-2*

7 **YONG HOON LEE**
South Korea *20-0*

8 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *35-3-1*

9 **ELIECER JULIO**
Colombia *19-0*

10 **CECILIO ESPINO**
Los Angeles, CA *21-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *19-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **THALERNSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *37-2*

4 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

5 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *45-8-1*

6 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *21-5-3*

7 **JOSE QUIRINO**
Mexico *28-6*

8 **GERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *19-0-1*

9 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

10 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *18-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *17-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *24-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *21-0*

6 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *10-0*

7 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *25-0*

8 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *27-3-1*

9 **AL KOTEY**
Philadelphia, PA *13-0*

10 **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico *18-2-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *19-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

3 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *22-0 (IBF Champ)*

4 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *32-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *31-3-3*

6 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

7 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-1*

9 **KWANG SUN KIM**
South Korea *5-0*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTAS**
Panama *21-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Welterweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

6 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

7 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

8 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

9 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

10 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

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Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Sept. 1982: Leon Spinks: Boxing's Prodigal Son Returns To The Cruiserweights. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Sanchez-Nelson, Max Baer, Milton McCrory.

Jan. 1983: Dwight Braxton: "How I Will Beat Spinks." Plus: Pryor-Arguello—Fight of the Year, Frank Fletcher, Rocky Marciano, Curry-Starling I, Hagler-Obel II.

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April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), Stanley Ketchel, Duran-Cuevas, Wilford Scypion.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

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Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time! Plus: After Holmes?, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

January 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

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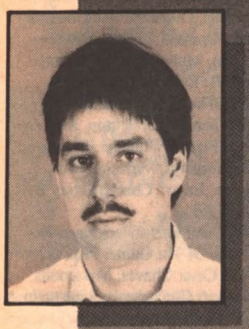


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

DONUTS AND CREAMPUFFS

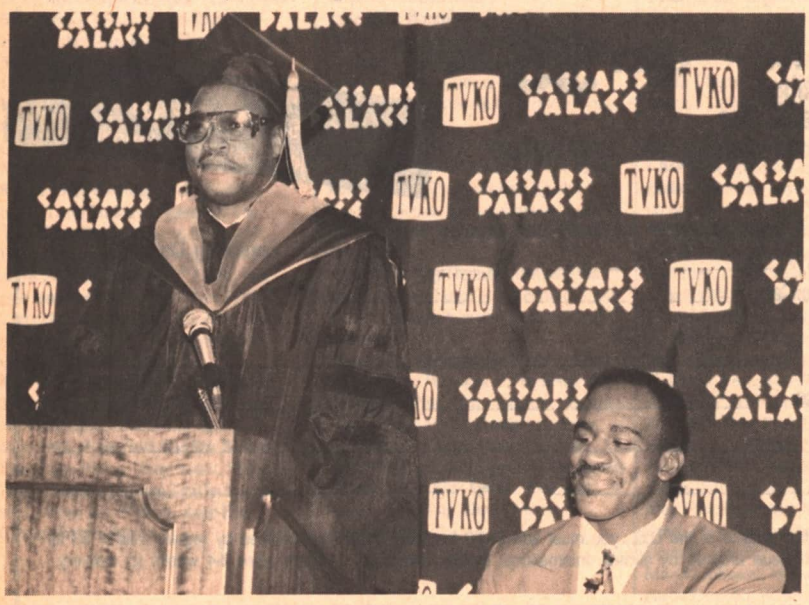
Western Pennsylvania in the fall of 1978. A college professor of mine, angered by the applause following his announcement that he has to cancel the next class, starts lecturing, but not on modern poetry. If we went to Dunkin' Donuts, ordered a dozen glazed donuts, and found only nine in the box when we got home, he snaps, what would happen? We'd want to race back to the place and glaze someone's eyes. But here, in the college classroom, we want the least for our dollar. Just let us survive these four years while putting forth the smallest amount of effort.

New York City in the winter of 1992. Professor Larry Holmes, clad in a robe and mortarboard, is standing at a lectern and lecturing heavyweight king Evander Holyfield. Holmes vows to show off his doctorate in boxology on June 19 at Caesars Palace. The message is clear: After Holyfield runs into one doctor, he'll have to call in another. What The Professor should be doing, however, is scolding the champ for giving the boxing fan the least for his dollar. And blasting Holyfield for trying to survive these championship years while putting forth the smallest amount of effort.

The 42-year-old Holmes doesn't do that, of course, because he's going to make $7-million for serving as the latest detour sign on Holyfield's road to respectability. "The Real Deal" ducks, and his promoter, Dan Duva, covers—the hefty purse check for the latest handpicked softie. Holmes is back, we are told. He beat Ray Mercer! And he just might upset Holyfield! No he won't, not unless Holyfield uses the same fight plan Mercer did. And to do that, he'd have to undergo a lobotomy on the morning of the fight.

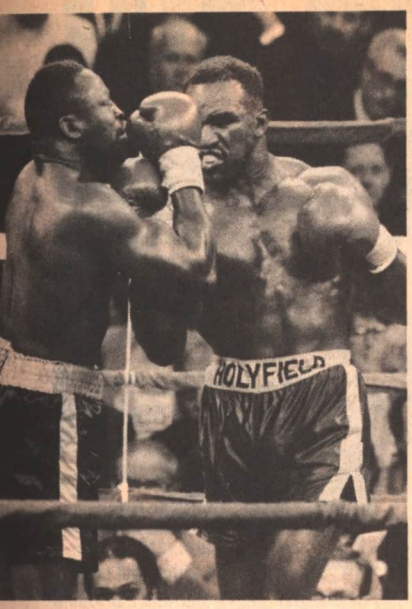
No, Holmes is *not* a threat. He's just a guy 10 years past his peak, an old man fossil-fueling the argument that Holyfield wants no part of tough title defenses against young, strong heavies like himself.

Professor Holmes, the publicity angle goes, will be teaching Holyfield a lesson on June 19. The odds suggest that on fight night, the viewing public will learn something as well: that a 42-year-old grandfather isn't going to win the world heavyweight title.



For several months, I have blamed the Holyfield camp—promoter Duva, co-managers Shelly Finkel and Lou Duva, and trainer George Benton—for playing matador during its negotiations, hoping that the camp of Riddick Bowe would run past the red cape and keep on going, or that a caged Mike Tyson would never have a chance to even enter the bullring. But now it's time to blame the champion himself.

Knowing Holyfield's character, and having gained insight into his immense pride during conversations we've had through the years, I remain convinced that he fears nobody. But doesn't he hear the grumblings out there? Why isn't he insisting to his braintrust that he tackle the best competition?



Last November, Holyfield struggled before stopping late substitute "Smokin' " Bert Cooper. Is a defense against Holmes further proof that the undisputed champion is unwilling to meet the best available competition?

Apparently, Holyfield has bought into The Boom Boom, Out Go The Fights theory of title defending. That argument says that being a success these days means making as much money as you can while fighting the easiest guys you can find. To those who subscribe to that theory, Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini was the epitome of masterful management. To those who think that establishing yourself as a respected ruler who takes on all challengers should be a champion's ultimate goal, Boom Boom was a bust bust.

On radio shows, Mancini talked tough, telling everyone how he wanted to shut Hector Camacho's mouth, match bombs with Edwin Rosario, and knock out Aaron Pryor. Mancini talked a good fight, and his manager, Dave Wolf, continually signed for a bad one. So we watched Mancini flex his muscles on Ernesto Espana, Duk Koo Kim, George Feeney, Orlando Romero, Johnny Torres, and Bobby Chacon. Had Livingstone Bramble not upset the Italian polo pony, we'd probably be writing previews of Mancini-Espana IV.

Whatever happened to the notion of wanting to prove your worth by beating the very best competition? The Holyfield apologists offer the argument that their man was fully prepared to face Tyson, but injuries and a rape conviction made *Tyson* unavailable. Very true. But when the Tyson fight was canceled, Holyfield and his handlers went after Francesco Damiani, fresh off a loss to Mercer. When Damiani withdrew, Bert Cooper was brought in on six days notice. Then, with Tyson sitting in court, Holyfield-Riddick Bowe seemed set. Until Holmes beat Mercer, that is, and the champion had a perfect excuse for facing someone easier than the gifted Bowe.

In walks Professor Holmes, and we get Team Holyfield's b.s. (no, not the degree) about how tough the challenge will be. Well, smart people don't buy it. Herbie Lambeck, the king of boxing's oddsmakers, called Holyfield-Bowe a pick-'em fight. Lambeck makes Holyfield a 6-1 favorite over Holmes.

In Holyfield's three defenses, he has taken on 4-1, 32-1, and 6-1 underdogs. This is not a record that is going to wallpaper the Hall of Fame. Holmes didn't build a reign this way. Alexis Arguello didn't. In 1980, when WBC champion Sugar Ray Leonard wanted to prove that he was the best welterweight in the world, he sought out Roberto Duran, even though "Hands of Stone" wasn't a mandatory challenger.

When negotiations for a Duran fight broke down, Leonard's camp immediately sat down with WBA titlist Pipino Cuevas, a pulverizing puncher who'd kayoed 10 of his 11 challengers. Leonard would make less for fighting Cuevas than Duran, but money wasn't his motivation. Turning back tough challenges was. When Leonard-Cuevas fell apart, it was right back to making a Duran fight. Sugar didn't go looking for opponents whose best days were a decade behind them.

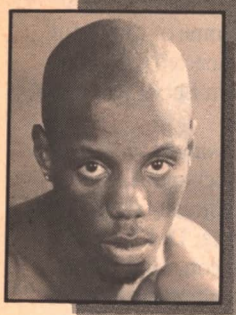
As middleweight king, Marvin Hagler fought the very best, and never did a gun have to be pressed up against his shaven head. Thomas Hearns won the WBA light heavyweight crown last year, and, now, at the age of 33, would rather face dangerous Iran Barkley than make voluntary defenses against easier competition. And though a disgrace to society, Tyson was a credit to the heavyweight throne. He believed that he was the best, so he fought everybody, regardless of their power, boxing ability, or chin.

Trevor Berbick, Bonecrusher Smith, and Tony Tucker were hardly Dempsey, Louis, and Marciano, but they *were* world champions, and Tyson beat all three in a span of nine months. He also knocked off undefeated Tyrell Biggs, undefeated Michael Spinks, banger Frank Bruno, gifted boxer Carl Williams, and a Pinklon Thomas who had never been floored. As ex-champ, he could have laid in a hammock and awaited an inevitable title shot, but instead met Razor Ruddock twice in three months.

Would Holyfield voluntarily fight Ruddock? Are you kidding? Those inhumane letters, W-B-C, have been threatening for months to strip Holyfield for countless transgressions, both real and imagined. Kathy Duva, Holyfield's publicist, recently told Associate Editor Robert Cassidy that the camp no longer cares whether or not the WBC strips Holyfield. Of course not. Team Holyfield probably hopes for it. If Bowe and Ruddock meet for the vacant title, as is rumored, Holyfield is rid of the loser, who is damaged goods, while the winner will conveniently be removed from the WBA and IBF ratings, and thus out of The Real Deal's way.

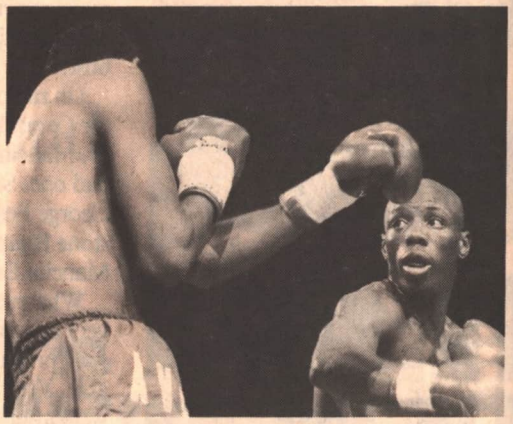
Bowe, Ruddock, Michael Moorer, and Lennox Lewis await their shots. Fans await an evenly matched title fight. And history awaits a test of Holyfield's merits. He is 29, and the time for image-building is now. You don't win fans by beating up an old man, especially when viewers wired for TVKO pay-per-view are being charged an insane *$35.95* to watch you do it.

When the fight is long over, and the cable bill arrives in the mail, I have a feeling that paying for a dozen donuts and only getting nine is going to seem like a real bargain. ■



New Faces

By Steve Farhood



Sample guns for Fidel Avendano

David Sample

Lightweight

All fighters have fantasies. Punchers dream of scoring highlight-film kayos. Boxers dream of 12-round shutouts. And everyone dreams of making millions of dollars.

The fantasy of Las Vegas lightweight David Sample, however, is a bit different.

"Some way, somehow," he said, "I gotta get into an NFL game. Running back for the Philadelphia Eagles. They need me. I'll take them all the way to the Super Bowl."

Because 135-pound halfbacks last as long as stuttering network weathermen, Sample will be fantasizing for the rest of his life. But in the ring, he is tackled only by opponents who are his own size. And while he has just begun to emerge, his success has already surpassed his highest expectations.

Until February 10, Sample was an item only by association. He is co-managed by Gladys Steele, the wife of world-class referee Richard Steele, and Eddie Futch, who rates among the greatest trainers in history. But the unbeaten southpaw's 16th win was deserving of a spotlight. Facing rugged Mexican Fidel Avendano at the Great Western Forum, Sample was brilliant, perfectly executing 10 three-minute drills in a classic display of hitting without getting hit.

"After we took that fight," said Steele, "one sportswriter wrote, 'Do David Sample's handlers know what they're doing?' I think we proved we did."

That the 23-year-old Sample knows what he's doing is remarkable in itself; he didn't pick up a boxing glove until age 19. The fighter was born and raised in North Philadelphia. At one point, he lived around the corner from Joe Frazier's gym, but scoped the premises only once.

"I remember thinking, *These guys must be crazy,"* he said.

When Sample was 15, his mother moved the family to Phoenix. He played football in high school, starring as a tailback, safety, punter, and punt returner. "I had to fake injuries to get a rest," he recalled.

Then, at age 19, he accompanied his best friend to a boxing workout, but only because the gym included a basketball court. After his friend won a Golden Gloves title, Sample's competitive instincts began to surface, and he traded his jump shot for a jump rope. He lost his first amateur fight, which, he says, was the key to his future.

"Losing was what made me stay with it," he said. "If I had won, I would've proved to myself that I could do it. The loss sent me on a mission. I became obsessed."

Sample compiled an overall amateur mark of 27-7. He lost in the preliminary rounds of the 1988 Western Olympic Trials and the 1989 Nationals, and then signed with Steele.

"I first saw him at an amateur tournament in Las Vegas," she said. "Local kids were competing against a team from Arizona. I was impressed with David's natural ability. I told him if he decided to turn pro he should call me."

(Continued on page 70)

PRO RECORD

	1989	
Dec. 11	Gilbert Davila, Inglewood	W 4
	1990	
Feb. 4	Byron Medal, Las Vegas	KO 1
Feb. 16	Donald Townsend, Las Vegas	W 4
Feb. 23	John Bryant, Reno	W 6
April 7	Martin Gallegos, Las Vegas	KO 2
May 31	John Rivera, Las Vegas	KO 1
July 8	Hector Ramirez, Las Vegas	W 6
Oct. 25	Steven Barreras, Las Vegas	W 4
Oct. 27	Tim Bonds, Bismarck, ND	W 6
	1991	
April 8	Salvador Montes, Inglewood	W 8
May 6	Hector Monjardin, Inglewood	W 8
June 3	Jaime Castillo, Las Vegas	W 8
Nov. 29	Rod Sequenan, Monterey, CA	W 10
Dec. 27	Alfredo Torres, Las Vegas	KO 1
	1992	
Feb. 1	Jose Antonio Robles, Las Vegas	KO 1
Feb. 10	Fidel Avendano, Inglewood	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	16	16	0	0	5

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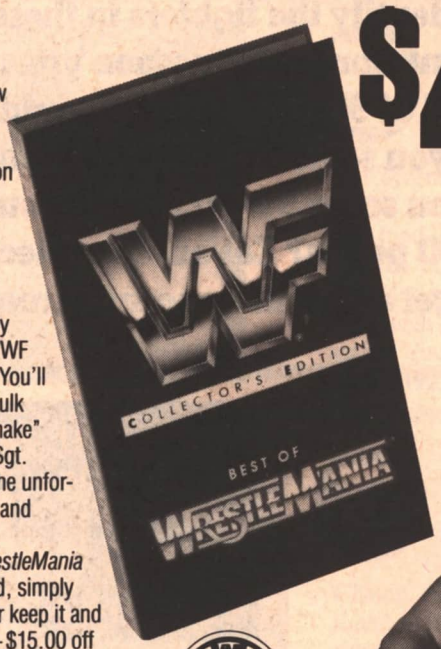

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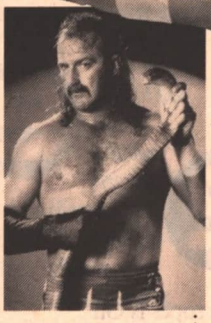

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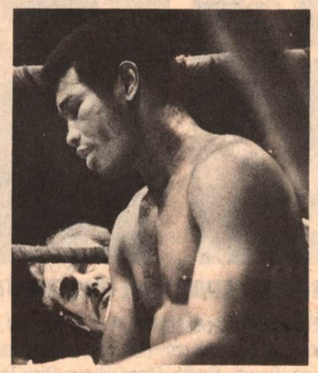
Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

1

Alexis Arguello's fists were particularly explosive, as suggested by the face of this former world champion. Hint: He's a Scot, but he's not Ken Buchanan.

2

Peeking through the ropes is Gil Clancy. The object of his attention is a South American middleweight who would become a world champion.



3

Okay, we'll be generous and identify Muhammad Ali for you. Starting from the left, name the three heavyweight champions posing with "The Greatest."

4

Most insiders wouldn't associate this manager with a smile. He was best known for guiding two heavyweights who fought 30 years apart.

5

A tough one: This patriotic lightweight beat Tyrone Crawley in 1983, unsuccessfully tried for the vacant IBF title in 1984, and suffered a one-punch kayo against Vinny Pazienza in 1985.

6

A big puncher, this light heavyweight, shown kayoing Lenny Edwards, enjoyed a big payday when he faced Sugar Ray Leonard.

7

In case you can't tell, this fighter was The Champ. And lots of times. In two divisions, too. Sew what if he couldn't beat Carlos Monzon?

8

A pair of tough guys go toe to toe in a 1984 battle for the WBC super lightweight title. Small hint: Both had brothers who were pro fighters.

9

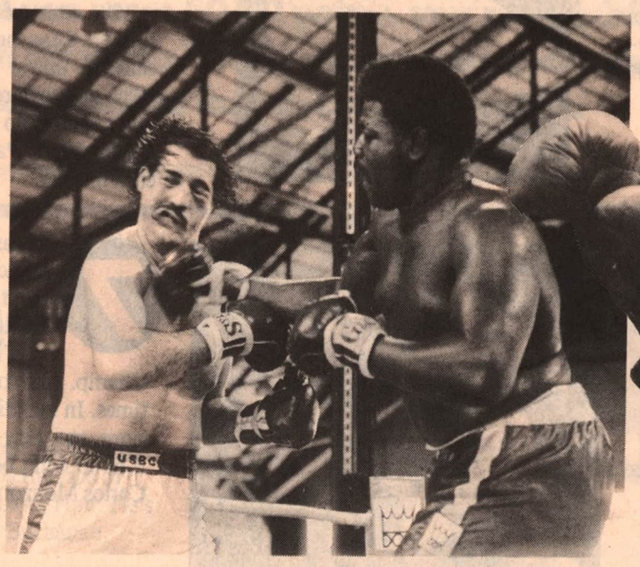
This one-time Harlem Globetrotter never threw in the towel. As a world-class referee, his most famous fight took place in Kinshasa, Zaire.

10

How quickly we forget. It wasn't long ago that this beastly middleweight—the one punching, not being punched—was a threat to kayo everyone he fought. Now he's all but disappeared.

ANSWERS:

1) Jim Watt; 2) Rodrigo Valdes; 3) Jersey Joe Walcott, Joe Louis, and Jim Braddock; 4) Cus D'Amato; 5) Melvin Paul; 6) Don Lalonde; 7) Emile Griffith; 8) Bill Costello and Bruce Curry; 9) Zack Clayton; 10) John Mugabi



Right: Quick-fisted, fat-waisted Leroy Jones pops Dino Denis en route to a points win in March 1977. Below: Sailor Willie Meehan was no Adonis, but he managed to twice defeat body-beautiful Jack Dempsey.

By Alan Shelton

Washboard stomachs? Slim waists and wide shoulders? Bodies cut from stone? Forget it. We're talking fat fighters here. Flesh on canvas. Big, bouncy heavyweights who threaten to crush their corner stools. (Those who can do 100 situps need not apply.)

Boxing hasn't produced many blubberballs. A sport that requires superb conditioning and stamina generally voids those who are overweight and out of condition. This doesn't mean there haven't been boxers who have carried spare tires. The '80s produced the legion of Don King-controlled tubbies, Tim Witherspoon, Tony Tubbs, and Greg Page. Watching some of these heavyweights move around the squared circle made one wonder which they needed more, a cup protecter or a D-cup bra.

(Continued on page 66)

BOXING'S FATTEST FIGHTERS, POUND FOR POUND, FOR POUND, FOR POUND. . .

Left: Judging by his girth, Buster Mathis didn't ride the stationary bicycle too often. Below left: Among South Africa's contributions to the Blubber Brigade was the enormous Jimmy Abbott.

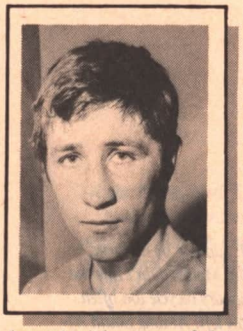
Perhaps the most famous fat fighter of all-time was Tony Galento, a bartender who opened beer bottles with his teeth. "Two Ton Tony" managed to floor the legendary Joe Louis during their June 1939 title fight.

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Ken Buchanan

Edinburgh, Scotland
Career: 1965-1975; 1979-1983
62-8 with 28 kayos



One of the finest boxers to emerge from the British Isle, Buchanan was a 5'7½" technician who conquered Europe, and then the world.

In September 1970, Buchanan challenged Panama's Ismael Laguna and took the world lightweight title by 15-round decision. He followed with successful defenses against Ruben Navarro and Laguna, and then, in June 1972, met another Panamanian, Roberto Duran. The Scot took a beating and was stopped in round 13.

Buchanan never secured the promised rematch. He kayoed former world champion Carlos Ortiz, regained the British and European 135-pound crowns, and fought once more for world honors, losing on points to Japan's Guts Ishimatsu in February 1975.

Buchanan continued to fight, however sparingly, until his retirement in 1983. Though his most memorable bout was his loss to Duran, he is remembered as one of the finest pure boxers of his era.

Hector Camacho

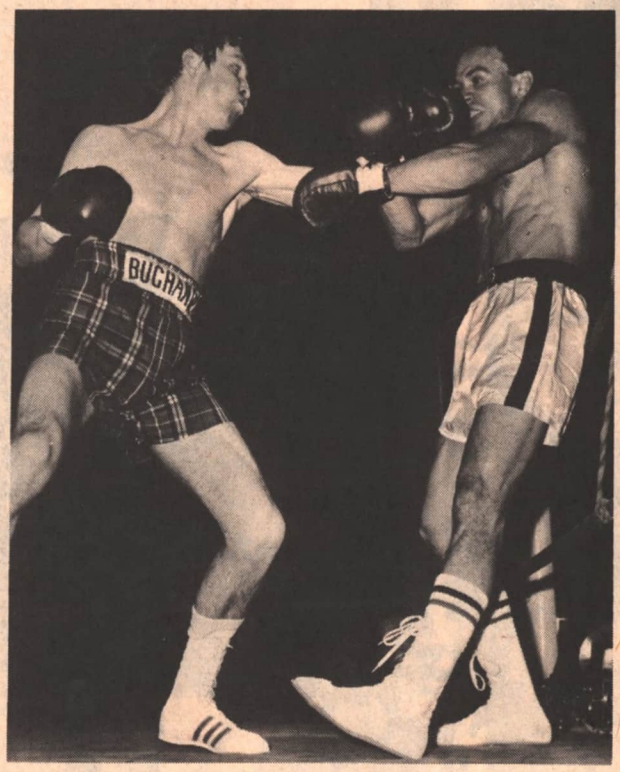
Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Career: 1980-Present
40-1 with 17 kayos

Cocky, bold, and exuberant, Camacho rates among the most controversial boxers in recent times. While his antics often infuriate purists, even his harshest critics acknowledge that he is a vastly talented fighter.

Camacho was at his best in the early-'80s, when he won world titles in two divisions. In August 1983, the Puerto Rican blew out fellow southpaw Bazooka Limon to win the vacant WBC super featherweight crown. After making one defense, he jumped to lightweight, and in August 1985, captured the WBC title, easily outpointing yet another lefthander, Jose Luis Ramirez. This time, he made two defenses before again rising in weight.

As a 140-pounder, Camacho has beaten Ray Mancini, Greg Haugen, and Vinny Pazienza. He has also suffered his only loss, on points to Haugen in February 1991. The consensus opinion is that he peaked as much as six years ago.

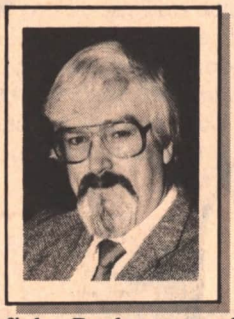
Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.



Buchanan pressures Puerto Rico's Hector Matta en route to a points victory in March 1973. The Scot wasn't a big hitter, but outclassed almost all of his foes.

HARRY MULLAN

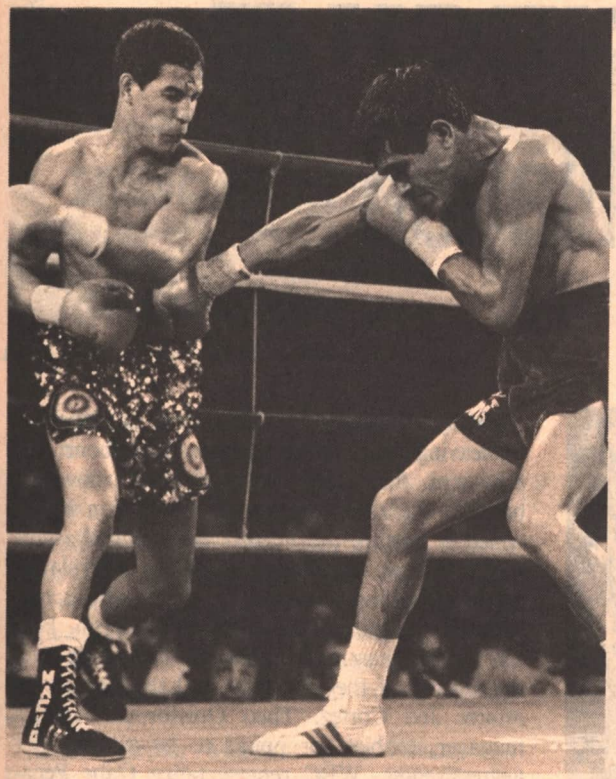
Buchanan didn't have that many weaknesses. It took a Duran to beat him; had they not been contemporaries, Buchanan might have been world champion for a long time. He was as close as we've come to producing a perfect fighter at that poundage in recent years.



At his peak as a lightweight, Camacho was 95 percent greatness. He was poetry in motion, and all that. He was a clever mover, but Buchanan had a little harder edge about him, and that would give him an edge. I'd hate to think what Duran would've done to Camacho.

This would be a terrific boxing match, but not a physical fight. Buchanan could match Camacho in hand speed, and Camacho could match Buchanan in boxing skills. But Camacho could only fight one way: constant movement. Neither had a punch to hurt the other, and besides, Buchanan had a terrific chin. It would be a distance fight, with Buchanan winning on points.

Harry Mullan is the longtime editor of the British-based Boxing News.



Camacho was at his best when he took Jose Luis Ramirez' lightweight title in August 1985. He dropped the Mexican and scored a unanimous 12-round decision win.

Defending the world lightweight title for the first time, Buchanan unanimously outpointed California favorite Ruben Navarro over 15 rounds in February 1971.

BOB GOODMAN

I promoted Buchanan against Frankie Otero in Toronto (in October 1973). He had tremendous skills and great speed, and was a master at coming off the ropes. He was a fair puncher, and was more effective with a guy coming at him. Against Donato Paduano, he gave a great display of boxing in a beautiful performance. Buchanan was a much better fighter than he showed against Duran.

Camacho at his best had tremendous hand speed and great natural instincts. He was only a fair puncher, though. Later on, he became a safety-first guy. The Camacho that fought Jose Luis Ramirez was a tremendous fighter. He did a better job against Ramirez than Pernell Whitaker did. Ramirez couldn't hit him in the ass with a handful of rice.

It would be a very interesting fight. A chess match. Camacho was a tough, gritty guy back then, and he would've had a bit too much hand speed for Buchanan in the later rounds. He'd eke out a decision victory.

Bob Goodman is the matchmaker and vice president of boxing for Madison Square Garden.

CARLOS ORTIZ

Buchanan was a standup boxer. He was fast, but his speed didn't come close to that of Ismael Laguna, who was much faster. I didn't have any trouble with Buchanan, I just ran out of gas because I had lost too much weight. How Buchanan would do against a southpaw like Camacho I don't know. Southpaws can be difficult. But I think he would outbox him.

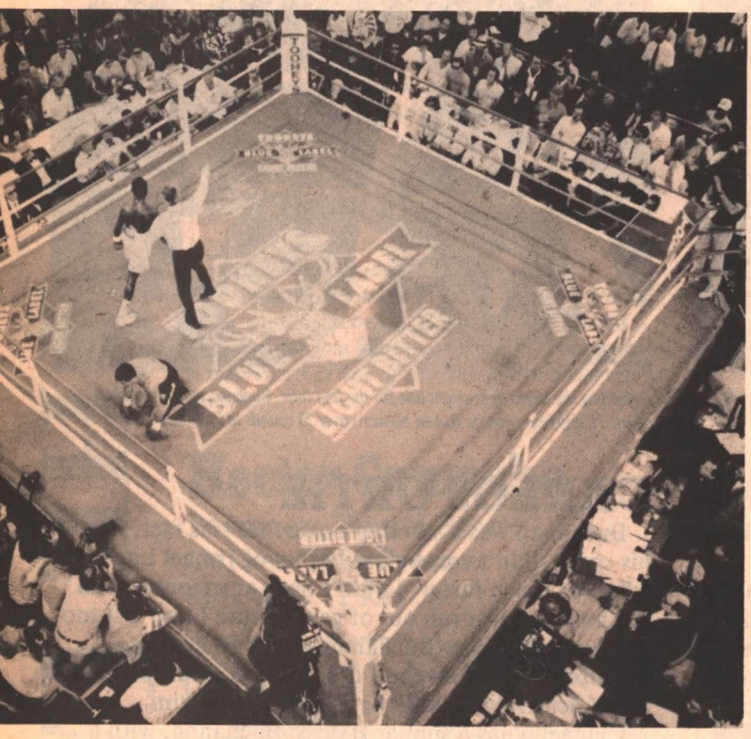
Camacho has a similar style to Buchanan, with a bit more of a punch. But I don't like fighters who do antics and offer showmanship. Boxing is an art, and you should practice it as best as possible. Camacho doesn't know a thing about doing that. And he's been lucky; he hasn't met anyone who can really fight. I'd like to see what Chavez does to him.

Neither fighter could hit hard enough to hurt the other. Buchanan would outfox him. He had a very fine jab. There'd be a lot of counterpunching, a lot of running around. Buchanan would have the style and skill to win by decision.

Carlos Ortiz is a former lightweight and junior welterweight champion. In September 1972, he was stopped by Ken Buchanan in six rounds. It was his final bout. ■

NELSON-FENECH II: The Heartbreak Of A Nation

By Ed Maloney



When the Azumah Nelson-Jeff Fenech rematch was announced last fall, I expected the Australian to win in impressive fashion. Almost everyone in boxing did. After all, Fenech had dominated Nelson in their Las Vegas draw.

Since Melbourne is only 10,359 miles from New York, I decided to explore the World Down Under, and be an eyewitness to what promised to be a blockbuster championship title fight. It turned out that the outcome wasn't what I had expected, but I was hardly disappointed.

Friday, February 28—More than 28 hours after leaving New York, I arrive in Melbourne at 8:30 a.m. local time. After a quick shower, I head to the rules meeting at the Bryson Hotel, which is hosting the Fenech camp and the promoter, Classic Promotions. All the key players are in attendance except for Nelson, who is represented by trainer Jose "Buffalo" Martin. Fenech's camp hammers home its displeasure over the scoring of the first fight and the leniency of referee Joe Cortez. Theo Onisforou, Fenech's manager, lobbies for points to be awarded for aggressiveness. WBC representative Gabe Penagaricano warns both camps that they will risk disqualification for misplacing mouthpieces, or causing other delays in order to buy their fighters time.

"You're about nine months too late," says a loose and confident Fenech.

Everyone is amused but Penagaricano. Martin and Fenech then engage in a some verbal sparring.

"You are a dirty fighter," says Martin. "Very dirty."

"Just make sure you bring your mouthpieces Sunday," answers the Aussie.

Nelson's manager, Carl King, spars with local reporters who insinuate that his father, Don, played a role in the controversial outcome of Nelson-Fenech I.

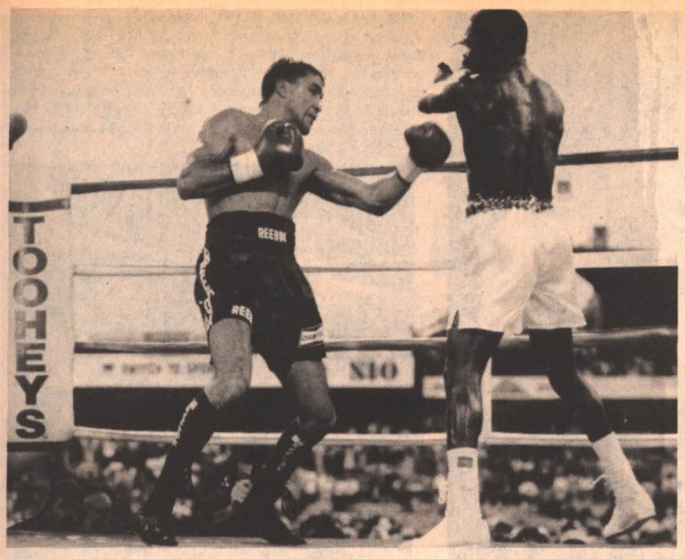
"I'm flattered that everyone thinks my family has so much power," he says.

I'm confident Fenech will win, but I can't help but think it premature when, before departing the dais, he measures his finger size for the diamond ring that the WBC awards its champions.

***

I take a walk around the city to gauge the mood of the locals. I'm surprised by the number of people convinced that the decision rendered in the first fight was the result of a conspiracy.

"Oh, he's going to win down here," says a sales clerk. "They can't rob him down here the way Don King and the Americans did."



To the surprise of his faithful, Fenech was cleanly outboxed by Nelson (left) and stopped in eight rounds.. Among those in attendance: former featherweight champion Johnny Famechon (below), who was badly injured in an auto accident last year.

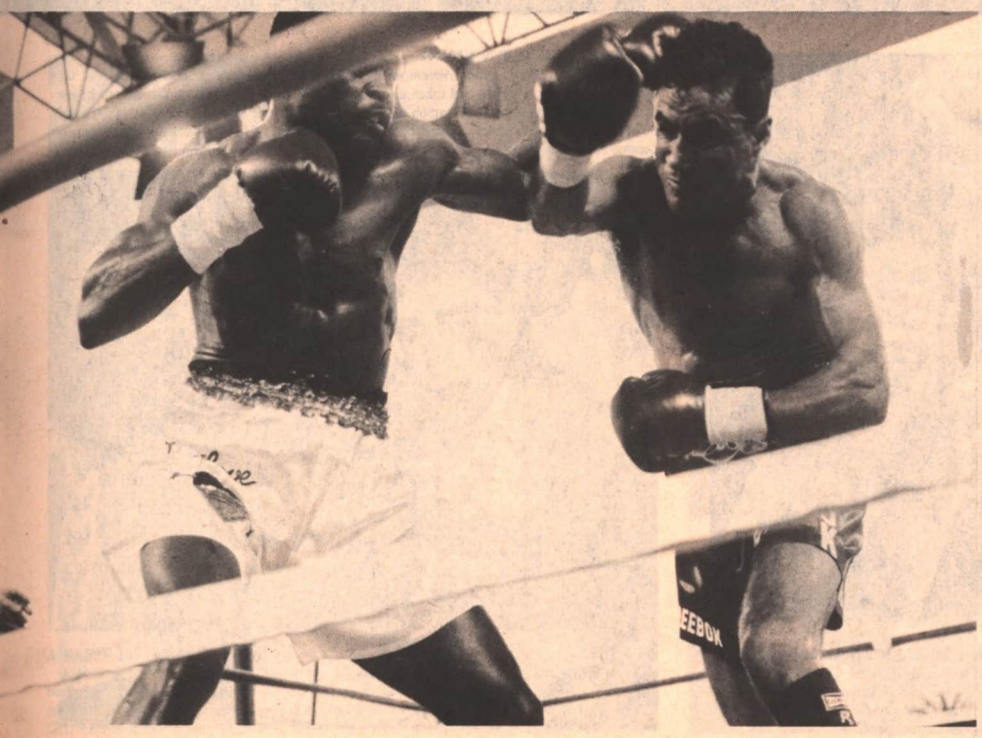
Photos By Ed Maloney & Sport, The Library

One of the many "official" fight T-shirts features an Australian flag above Fenech's name, and an American flag over Nelson's. A conspiracy? Just wait until Oliver Stone gets wind of this.

Saturday, February 29—Fenech arrives early at Princes Park for the outdoor weigh-in. This time Nelson shows up, too. Both appear supremely confident; Fenech seems more focused, Nelson more at ease. Fenech and Nelson weight in at 129. Each claims he has had no trouble making weight.

Referee Arthur Mercante gives Nelson and Fenech their prefight instructions separately, in public, instead of just before the fight in the dressing rooms. Mercante emphasizes that *he* will be in control, and that the fighters should obey *his* commands at all times. The WBC is appar-

(Continued on page 53)



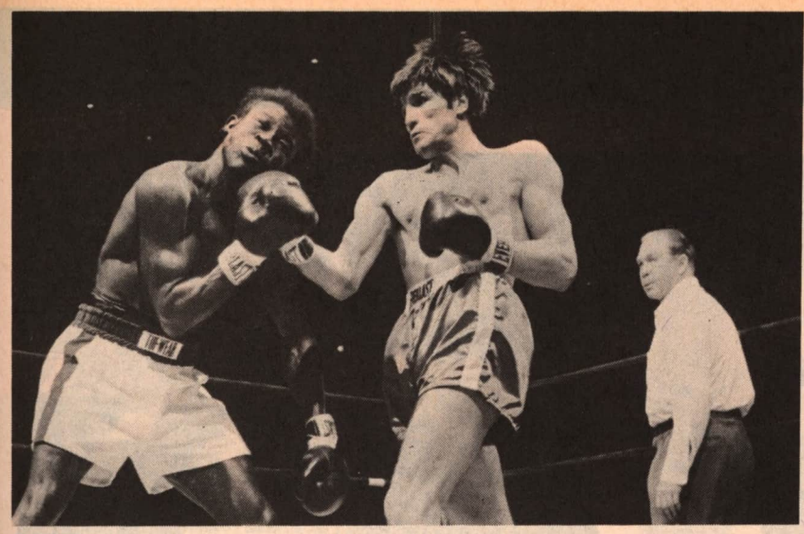
In Nelson-Fenech I, the Australian's aggressiveness worked in his favor. In the rematch, however, Fenech walked into several of Nelson's booming right hands.

THE ROAD WARRIOR

Sacramento, California, March 15, 1991—During WBA junior lightweight champion Brian Mitchell's title reign, the South African defended on the road often enough to acquire frequent flyer mileage for a trip to Mars. His toughest test came against IBF champion Tony Lopez at the Arco Arena. In one of the best fights of the year, the 130-pounders tirelessly traded punches from the opening bell and struggled to a crowd-pleasing 12-round draw. In the rematch, however, Mitchell would prove superior.

THE FALL OF THE SILVER ASSASSIN

Johannesburg, South Africa, April 26, 1982—After the relatively inexperienced Davey Moore kayoed Tadashi Mihara to capture the WBA junior middleweight crown, it was assumed that he would remain champion only until defending against South Africa's "Silver Assassin," Charlie Weir. But at Ellis Park Stadium, Moore withstood Weir's early offensive and scored a convincing fifth-round kayo.

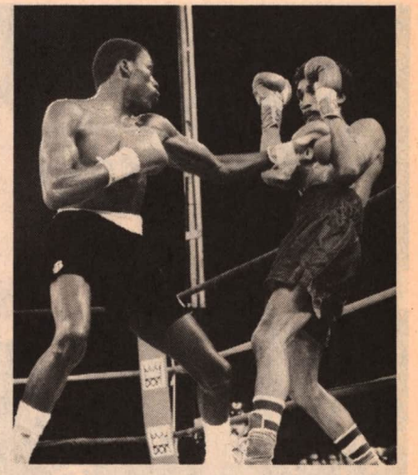


PRIMO NINO

New York City, April 17, 1967—Before making his U.S. debut, former 154-pound champion Nino Benvenuti was billed as the best middleweight from Europe since Marcel Cerdan. Nonetheless, the quick-fisted Italian was a 3-1 underdog vs. world champion Emile Griffith at Madison Square Garden. For 10 rounds, the bout was close, with each fighter scoring one knockdown. But Benvenuti pulled ahead in the championship rounds and was awarded a unanimous 15-round decision.

SEE SAMMY FALL

San Juan, January 19, 1983—The difference in experience was huge: Defending WBA junior lightweight champion Sammy Serrano, 30, had engaged in 17 world title fights; challenger Roger Mayweather, 21, had engaged in 14 fights over his 1½-year pro career. But "The Black Mamba" was too quick for the Puerto Rican, and before a disappointed crowd at Hiram Bithorn Stadium, he took the crown by eighth-round kayo.

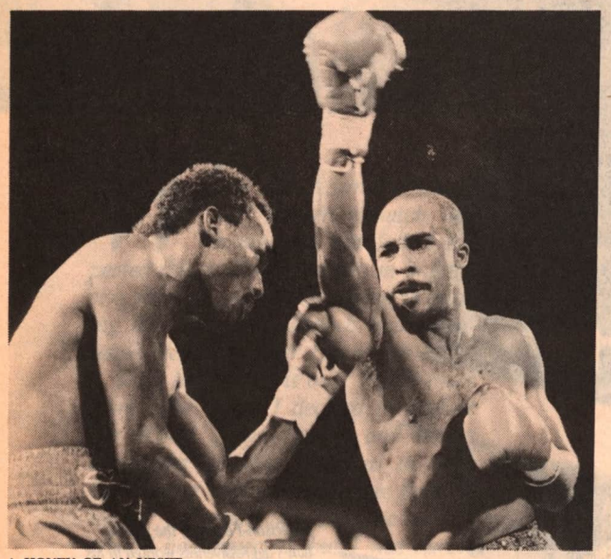


TITLE FIGHT UPSETS

HOMEBOYS WHO GOT HAMMERED

On March 1 in Melbourne, Australia, Jeff Fenech was a prohibitive favorite to dethrone WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson. A major reason: The challenger was fighting in his homeland. But as Fenech pointed out, what is perceived as a considerable advantage can in fact work as a major disadvantage. After all, it is a herculean task to singlehandedly carry the hopes of a nation *and* win a fight.

Nelson-Fenech II was hardly an exception; boxing history provides several instances where fighting at home turned out to be the most humbling of experiences.

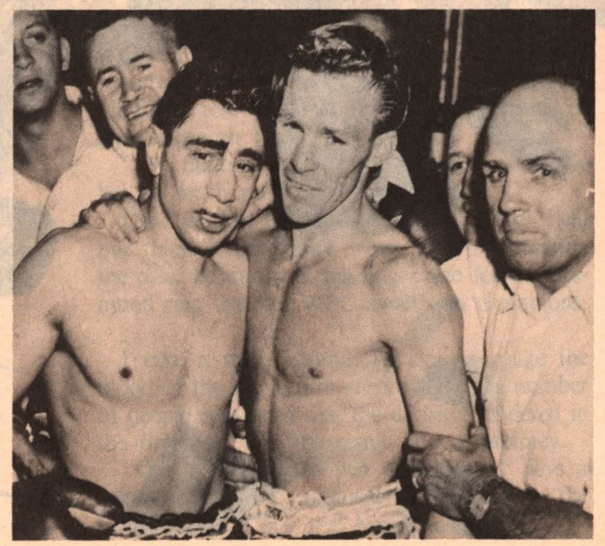


A HONEY OF AN UPSET

Atlantic City, September 27, 1986—It isn't often that a British fighter crosses the ocean and wins a world title by conquering an American foe. But at Caesars Atlantic City Hotel Casino, relentless Lloyd Honeyghan mowed down undisputed welterweight champion Donald Curry, scoring a sixth-round TKO. It was an upset of monumental proportions; Curry was previously unbeaten, and considered the best pound-for-pound fighter in the game.

WONDER FROM DOWN UNDER

Johannesburg, South Africa, November 15, 1952—The face of Vic Toweel suggests that the South African bantamweight had taken an extended beating. Rather, Jimmy Carruthers had just dethroned the reigning world champion after just 139 seconds at Rand Stadium. In fact, Toweel hadn't thrown a single punch. Toweel had been South Africa's first world champion; Carruthers became Australia's first universally recognized titlist. He would kayo Toweel in the rematch, too.



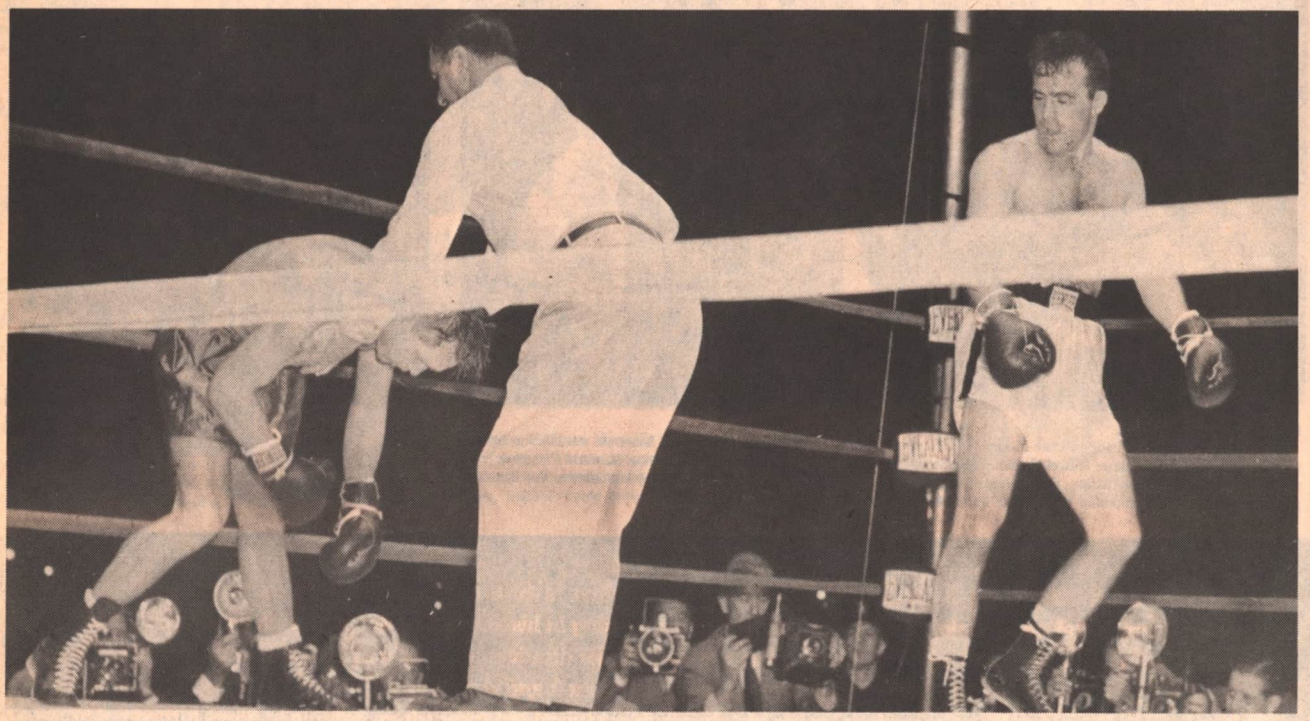
A HAPPY BIRTHDAY INDEED

New York City, June 16, 1983—On Roberto Duran's 32nd birthday, the Panamanian legend became a triple-crown champion by shocking undefeated and heavily favored WBA junior middleweight champion Davey Moore via eighth-round kayo. Moore was a native of New York City, but the sellout crowd cheered for Duran, and after his victory, sang "Happy Birthday."

A ROSE IS A CHAMP

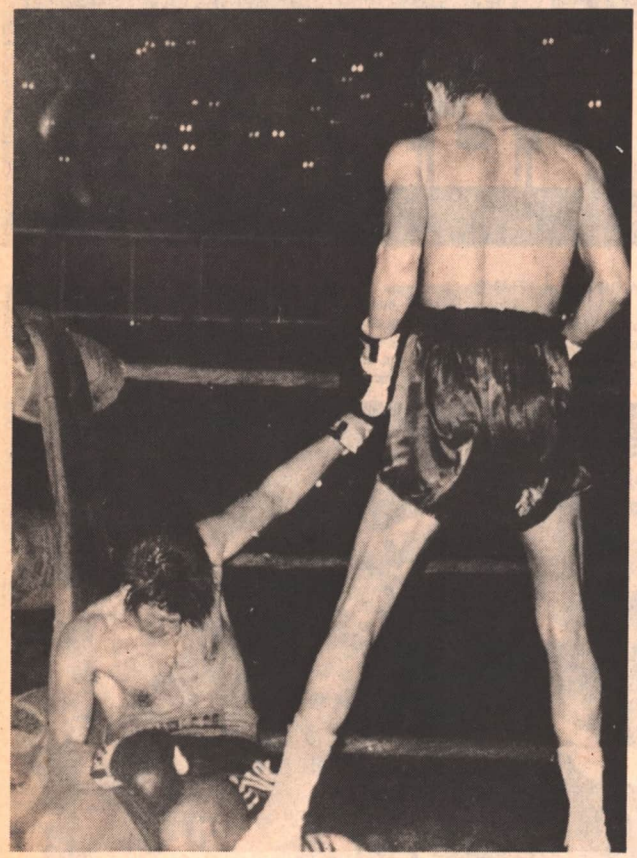
Tokyo, Japan, February 26, 1968—Australia's 19-year-old Lionel Rose is carried from the ring at the Martial Arts Hall after shocking defending bantamweight champion Fighting Harada by unanimous 15-round decision. Having won world crowns at 112 and 118 pounds, Harada entered the ring as a 4-1 favorite. But after a cautious start, Rose jabbed strongly, cut the champion around the eyes, and dominated. At best, Harada won three rounds.

HOMEBOYS WHO GOT HAMMERED



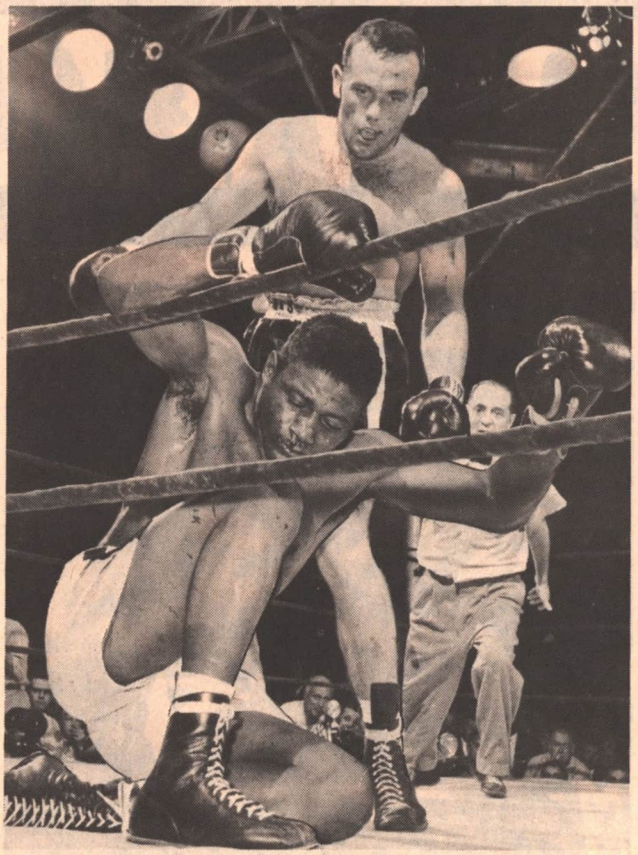
CERDAN LE MAGNIFIQUE!

Jersey City, New Jersey, September 21, 1948—Before challenging middleweight champion Tony Zale at Roosevelt Stadium, Marcel Cerdan had fought only four times in the United States. The challenger, who was born in Algeria, raised in Morocco, and living in France, was an underdog; Zale was among the longest-reigning champions in history. But "The Man of Steel" turned old, and Cerdan dominated en route to a 12th-round TKO win. Unfortunately, his reign would be brief. In his first defense, he would suffer a stoppage loss vs. Jake LaMotta.



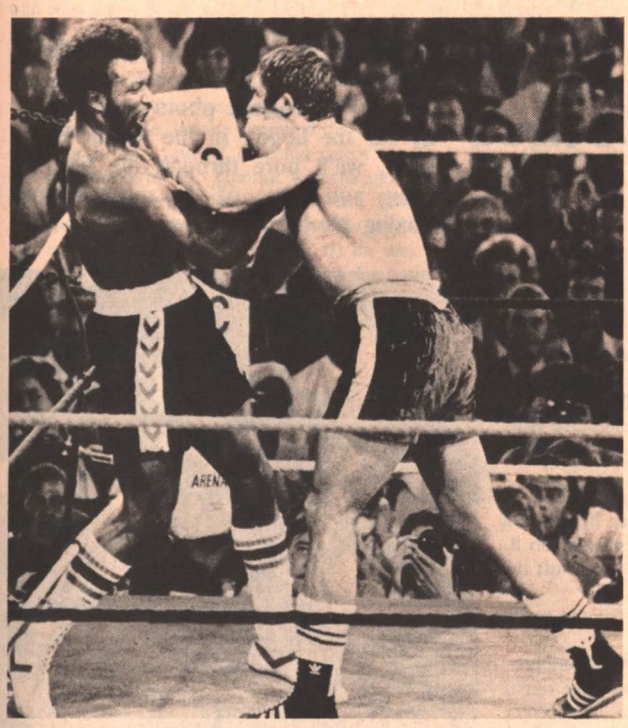
PASTA HIS PRIME

Rome, Italy, November 7, 1970—Middleweight champion Nino Benvenuti falls at the feet of unheralded Argentine challenger Carlos Monzon during the 12th round at the Palazzo dello Sport. The beloved Italian was counted out by referee Rudolf Durst. For Benvenuti, it would only get worse; six months later, he would crash in the third round of the rematch.



SWEET SWEDE

Bronx, New York, June 29, 1959—At the 1952 Olympic Games, Sweden's Ingemar Johansson was disqualified in the gold medal match for not fighting. For that reason, it was difficult to envision him dethroning heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson at Yankee Stadium. But the unbeaten challenger showed off his crushing right hand, dropping Patterson seven times in three rounds and becoming the first foreign-born heavyweight champion since Primo Carnera.



BOMBERS IN BOPHUTHATSWANA

Sun City, Bophuthatswana, October 25, 1980—It's a long way from Southern California to Sun City, but WBA heavyweight champion Mike Weaver made the trip worthwhile by knocking out South Africa's powerpuncher Gerrie Coetzee in the 13th round at the Super Bowl. Weaver survived a characteristically slow start and a scary moment in round eight, when Coetzee hurt him with a right hand. Then his counters gradually wore down the challenger.

HOME FIELD DISADVANTAGE?

Manila, Philippines, February 15, 1964—When world lightweight champion Carlos Ortiz defended the title at Rizal Memorial Coliseum against national hero and reigning junior lightweight king Flash Elorde, he anticipated the pitfalls that often accompany fighting on the road. But it was Elorde who suffered a bad break when he was stopped on cuts in round 14.

THE END OF A LEGEND

Mexico City, December 6, 1975—Mexico's adopted son, 35-year-old welterweight champion Jose Napoles, loses the crown to England's John Stracey before a crowd of 30,000 at Monumental Plaza. After rising from a first-round knockdown, the challenger, a prohibitive underdog, issues an extended beating. When referee Octavio Meyran rescues "Mantequilla," the Cuban-born legend is squinting through a badly swollen left eye. It turns out to be the last fight of his lengthy and magnificent career.

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

SHAPE UP

(May 28, 1948)

While training for his title defense against Tony Zale, middleweight champion Rocky Graziano was visited by legendary former featherweight king Abe Attell (left) and former lightweight contender Joe Benjamin. Attell warned Rocky to stay away from the ropes.

"Whatever you do," he said, "don't let Zale pin you in a corner. Even if you have to turn your back on him and run, do it. You let a body banger like Zale cut off the ring and he'll kill you."

Abe then cocked his right fist and aimed it at Graziano's body.

Rocky either didn't take Attell seriously, or he forgot about it, because Zale ripped away at Rocky's body from the opening bell. In the third round, Graziano was pinned in a corner and doubled over by murderous shots to the belly. The punches rendered him helpless and, moments later, ex-middleweight champion of the world.

ALI KAYOED!

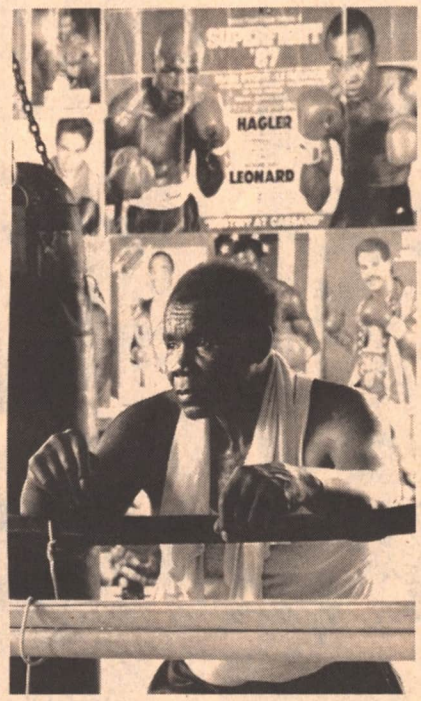
(November 20, 1964)

With wife Sonji by his side, heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali ponders his future while recuperating from hernia surgery in Boston City Hospital. On Friday night, November 13, three days before his scheduled return bout with Sonny Liston, the man from whom he had won the title nine months before, Ali was suddenly stricken with agonizing stomach pains. Rushed from his hotel suite to the hospital, he was immediately operated on.

Quoted in the biography *Muhammad Ali: His Life And Times,* by Thomas Hauser, one of the surgeons says: "It was such a marvelously developed stomach, I hated to slice it up."

In the same book, a disappointed Liston is quoted: "If he'd stop all that hollering, he wouldn't have a hernia."

Ali-Liston II was postponed six months, with the venue changed from Boston to Lewiston, Maine. "The Big Bear" fell in one round in what was among the most controversial fights in history.



BUT NEVER A CHAMPION

(May 13, 1989)

Jimmy Bivins' peering eyes follow a young prospect during a sparring session at Jimmy's gym in his native Cleveland, Ohio. But this is not a story about a 69-year-old trainer and small gymnasium owner in mid-America. Rather, it is about an extraordinary athlete who compiled a remarkable 13-year (1940-1953) ring record, defeating just about all of the top-rated middleweights, light heavyweights, and heavyweights in the world. What is incredible is that he not only never won a world title, he never even got the chance to fight for one.

Just look at the list of Bivins victims who were or became world champions: Anton Christoforidis, Teddy Yarosz, Billy Soose, Gus Lesnevich, Joey Maxim, Ezzard Charles, Melio Bettina, and Archie Moore.

But it didn't stop there. Bivins, who, incidentally, had the longest arms of any fighter—they hung down below his knees—willingly took on the most feared fighters of his time, murderous punchers the likes of Curtis Sheppard, Lem Franklin, Lloyd Marshall, Pat Valentino, Lee Q. Murray, Oakland Billy Smith, Booker Bechwith, Omelio Agramonte, Sid Peaks, Leonard Morrow, and on and on. Bivins also went 10 rounds with Joe Louis in 1951, losing a close decision.

Bivins couldn't help but wonder how he seemed to always be in the wrong place at the wrong time whenever it came to ascending a royal throne.

FARR FROM HOME

(March 8, 1938)

Welshman Tommy Farr (center) welcomes Finnish heavyweight Gunner Barlund (left) and top middleweight contender Fred Apostoli at his New Jersey training camp, where Tommy was preparing for his bout with Max Baer. Seven months before, Farr had won the hearts of fans all over the world with his valiant attempt at capturing Joe Louis' crown in "The Brown Bomber's" first title defense. The fans at Yankee Stadium that night were about equally divided as to who had won. Joe, of course, had been given the decision.

Promoter Mike Jacobs promised to reward Tommy with another chance at Louis' crown if he could defeat ex-champ Baer. But alas, it was not meant to be. Tommy was the aggressor throughout the 15 rounds at Madison Square Garden, and when the decision was announced in favor of Baer, it stunned the crowd. The vast majority of fans and newsmen believed Farr to be an easy winner.

In his dressing room, a despondent Farr asked his manager, Ted Broadribb, "What do I have to do to beat a Yank over here?"

Broadribb didn't have an answer.

PRIMO GOES HOLLYWOOD

(January 5, 1934)

When heavyweight champion Primo Carnera went to Hollywood to appear in *The Prize Fighter And The Lady,* studio press agents persuaded the most famous of all former boxers-turned-movie actors, Academy Award-winner Victor McLaglen, to welcome Primo to Tinseltown.

This photo, the first of more than 100 shot during a 2½-hour session, shows McLaglen (left), Carnera, and Victor Fleming, who directed Primo's film, comparing the size of their feet. The champion's size-22 canal boats gave him an overwhelming victory.

McLaglen, who had been good enough to have held his own against the great Jack Johnson in a six-round exhibition bout in 1909, was awed by Carnera's size.

"I'm thankful I'm an actor, not a boxer," quipped Victor, as his big hand was swallowed up by Primo's huge mitt during a parting handshake.

AN EYE FOR A TITLE

(March 27, 1951)

Joe Weidin, his face bathed in blood and his left eye shut tight as a trap door, tells a radio commentator, "I could see nothing from my eye for the last six rounds." Despite so severe a handicap, Joe lasted the full 15 rounds in London against Britain's Jack Gardner. It was a courageous but futile attempt to save the European heavyweight title.

Weidin, probably the most talented of Austrian-born boxers, fought throughout Europe, South Africa, and most major American cities. Noted for his determination, durability, and aggressive style, he was, in 1948, considered as an opponent for world champion Joe Louis.

Joe Louis Jr. at age one, with parents Joe Sr. and Marva, and at the banquet in February.

MY DAD, JOE LOUIS

(February 24, 1992)

The special banquet paying tribute to Joe Louis in Edmonton, Canada, was a huge success. Although "The Brown Bomber's" memory was certainly of major importance, the real attraction of the night was the great champion's 44-year-old son, Joseph Louis Barrow Jr., the keynote speaker and guest of honor.

A highly respected, Harvard-educated attorney, Joe Jr. spoke with deep reverence about his immortal dad, stressing not his ring career, but rather his humanitarian side. He explained that as long as he could remember, his father's primary interest was helping young people "find their rightful, proper way in life."

Eloquently expanding on his father's basic beliefs, Joe Jr. spoke directly to the young people in attendance.

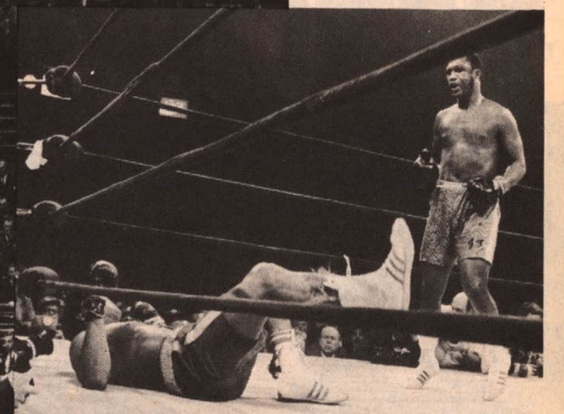
"You can do anything you want to do," he said. "Just get the drive to do it and stop at nothing. And if you should run into a problem, seek help."

How proud Joe Sr. would have been had he heard his son deliver that keynote speech in Edmonton.

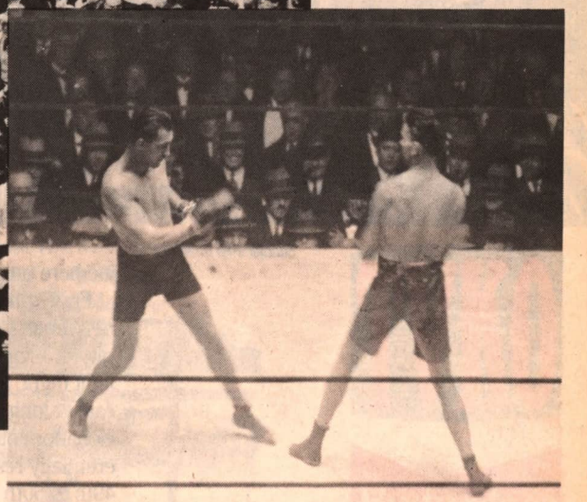
Louis, Marciano, Ali, Tyson

ALL THE GREATS FOUGHT IN THE GREATEST RING OF ALL

Archie Moore in '54



Frazier-Ali in '71



Berlenbach-Delaney in '25

By Johnette Howard

There was a time when professional boxing was pretty simple. The fight game revolved around New York City, and in New York, boxing revolved around Madison Square Garden's famous ring. Before television, the city's seven daily newspapers would print fight results, culled from wire-service dispatches from every far-flung town. And every morning, the boxing crowd would peruse the spare, small-type listings to see who beat whom in Abilene, Texas, Hartford, Connecticut, and Youngstown, Ohio, too. Only there could they learn more about the traveling bard named Archie Moore, or the exploits of Sugar Ray Robinson, who fought out of town as often as he fought in New York.

It's been 67 years since light heavyweights Paul Berlenbach and Jack Delaney christened the current ring with their 1925 title fight at the "old" Garden on 49th Street. Another 160 world championship bouts have unfolded inside the storied ring since—no other venue in the world has as many.

The current Garden, on 33rd Street, now rarely plays host to main arena events. But within the magical space of the Garden's ring, time has no claim. Joe Louis continues to mill with Marciano and Jersey Joe, and Sandy Saddler

Tyson-Green in '86

is still stalking Willie Pep. Benny Paret is being carried out on a stretcher, soon to be dead, and Joe Frazier is still boring in on Muhammad Ali.

Today, when the bell sounds and fists fly, the past and present become one inside the Garden ring, and New York's veteran boxing people sigh sadly and say that only the ring is the same.

"You didn't have these guys with only 12 fights in the Garden in those days," hisses Teddy Brenner, probably the most exalted matchmaker the Garden ever had. "And a guy like Mike Tyson couldn't catch Ali long enough to slap his behind. Why, Fritzie Zivic had 24 losses when he won the title. And I don't know if Ray Leonard could have even beaten *him*."

In the sweet used-to-be, fighting in the Garden's ring was an honor bestowed stingily. Fights went on around New York night after night, but only the sweat set's true artists were invited to make the Garden's canvas their drop cloth. And the ring's fame stretched worldwide. Harry Markson, former president of Madison Square Garden Boxing, tells of going to Rome to sign Nino Benvenuti for his 1968 middleweight title fight against Emile Griffith, and accompanying the Benvenuti family to an audience with the Pope.

"I was introduced to Pope Paul VI as Harry Markson of Madison Square Garden," Markson says. "And the Pope stepped back, his face lit up, and he sort of exclaimed, 'Ah, Madison Square Garden—boxing.' "

But maybe it takes a boxer to explain it the best. When Joey Giardello, the mid-'60s middleweight champion, was approached by a hustler about a fight against a guy with a built-up record, Giardello eyed him and said, "Do you see this nose? I got it flattened in tough fights with fellas like Henry Hank and George Benton. This cut over my eye I got from Sugar Ray Robinson, and my face ain't real pretty, see? Let your guy go out and fight real fighters and earn a shot. Until then, until you can do all this in all these other towns, this title ain't for sale and money's not gonna buy it, see?"

Saddler-Pep in '48

The line about money tells you just how old the Garden's ring really is, and you don't need a cauliflower ear to hear the echoes.

Boxing has been a New York City fixture since the turn of the century. But the existence of the Garden's current ring can be divided into three distinct eras, beginning with the 1925 Berlenbach-Delaney fight through 1944, a time highlighted by the reign of Joe Louis.

Stage two, or the game's Golden Age, ran from 1944 to 1964, encompassing the advent of televised boxing and Gillette's famous *Friday Night Fights*, the end of World War II, and the skullduggery of '50s mobsters like Frankie Carbo and Blinky Palermo.

A third segment, stretching from 1964 to the present, covers TV's pullout, the casinos' takeover of fight sites, and the peak moment in the current Garden's boxing history: the 1971 Fight of the Century between undefeated heavyweights Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. It was the opener of a brutal trilogy; Ali called the third fight "the closest thing to dying that I can imagine here on earth."

Frazier helped open the current Garden on the same 1968 card as Benvenuti-Griffith. But the climate-controlled new arena left the boxing fraternity craving the old Garden's ambience and, especially its famous lobby—on fight night, a microcosm of the entire New York boxing scene. Until television came along and took the action away from the local fight clubs, New York aficionados could find a card any night of the week. But Friday nights were reverentially reserved for the Garden, and there, in the lobby that stretched from 49th to 50th Street, "a boxing hall of fame would come to life," says fight publicist Irving Rudd.

(Continued on page 58)

BUDWEISER PRESENTS

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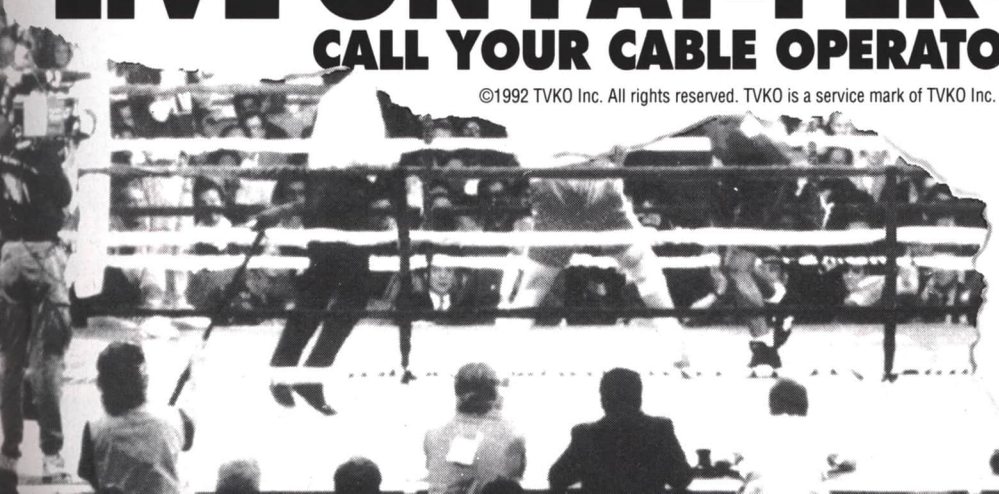


TVKO™

Budweiser

Top-Rated Tracy Patterson

A CHIP OFF THE OLD ROAD BLOCK

By Jeff Ryan

It's one tale of good and Evel. Good is Floyd Patterson, two-time heavyweight champion and all-time nice guy. Evel is Evel Knievel, the man who thought Harleys had wings. Both became household names in bone-jarring professions; Floyd jarred other people's, and Evel jarred his own. Both have sons. Tracy Patterson wants to be a champ off the old block. Robbie Knievel wants to follow in Dad's footsteps, but without the limp.

Robbie Knievel, trying to prove he's as good as Evel was cracked up to be, recently crashed while jumping twentysomething trucks on his motorcycle. Tracy Patterson hopes he doesn't crash when he jumps twentysomething levels in competition for a shot at a world junior featherweight title this spring. Each is closely following his old man's recipe for success, recipes that took the fathers to the top of the heap, but, at times, left them in a heap, as well.

If he were a boxer, Robbie Knievel, who cleared the fountains at Caesars Palace as a mere pup, would have fought for a title in his fourth pro fight. If he were a motorcycle daredevil, Tracy

(Continued on page 56)

Number-one junior featherweight Tracy Patterson and father Floyd celebrate another quick victory.

For 12 valorous rounds in February, 24-year-old Kevin Kelley and 29-year-old Troy Dorsey dazzled 2,535 spectators at The Paramount in New York City by throwing a total of 2,806 punches. (That's 1.1069033 punches per person!) Kelley earned a unanimous decision over the former IBF featherweight champion.

Judges Georgie Colon and Tony Castellano both scored 116-112 for Kelley. Nick Drake also rewarded Kelley, but by the more generous margin of 116-109. ***The Ring*** *had it 116-113 for Kelley.*

For the fighters, it was a long and aching experience, and perhaps the most tortuous fight they'll ever have.

"A night in hell," said Kelley, 27-0 (20), who entered the ring as the WBA's top contender, thereby risking a mandatory title shot vs. Yung Kyun Park of Korea. "But I proved one thing: I have the determination to be a champion."

Dorsey, 12-5-4 (10), also proved something: that, following a 12-round title fight loss to Manuel Medina last August, he's not washed up.

"I'll be back in the title hunt soon," he promised.

Kelley-Dorsey will remain a strong candidate for Fight of the Year. In an effort to get to the core of the fight, ***The Ring*** *has decided to take a different approach in its coverage. Associate Editor Joseph C. Tintle spoke with the fighters and allowed them to analyze the fight in their own words.*

Photos By Al Bello

AFTER KELLEY & DORSEY POURED THEIR HEARTS OUT IN THE RING...

KELLEY ON THE DECISION

After the fight, I thought it would be a draw. But after seeing it on tape, I saw it as a decision for me. Rounds one to three, I thought I won. I gave him a 10-8 for round four. Five and six were mine. Seven was even. Eight was for me. Nine was even. The 10th, I won. He won the 11th big. And I won the 12th big.

It was a classic, a war. Both of us were determined to keep punching. My punches, I thought, were more effective. They landed on the mark and were straighter, crisper, harder.

I pulled away from a lot of his punches. He, by contrast, was right there to be hit. That was the difference. That's why I won the fight. But remember this: It took me *and* him to make this fight the classic it was.

DORSEY ON THE PUNCHES

The volume of punches thrown was incredible. I wonder if it was some sort of record. The only other time in my career that I threw close to this amount of punches was in my fight with Harold Rhodes in '89.

This fight was just a consistent barrage of punches from both of us. I didn't know there'd be so many punches thrown, but I had trained to make it through 12 busy rounds.

Don't get me wrong, though; it wasn't like I was going, "Gol-ly, he's throwing a lot of punches." I wasn't *that* surprised. I mean, he's a young guy. He's chasing a world title, like I was—and still am. He was going to do what he had to do to put himself in position for his big chance.

(Continued on page 61)

They Pour Their Hearts Out In *The Ring*

THE BUSIEST FIGHTERS IN BOXING

According to Editor-in-Chief Steve Farhood's unofficial count, the Kevin Kelley-Troy Dorsey slugfest featured a total of 2,806 punches, a record for a 12-round fight, or at least in the eight years since CompuBox began charting such things. A round-by-round breakdown of the action:

DORSEY		KELLEY
95	1	110
100	2	100
113	3	117
111	4	101
136	5	97
153	6	115
136	7	114
112	8	97
130	9	110
136	10	92
154	11	95
153	12	129

Total punches thrown:
1,529 1,277

Average punches per round:
127 106

The RING

CONTEMPORARY LEGENDS

LARRY HOLMES KO 11 MUHAMMAD ALI

WBC Heavyweight Title • Caesars Palace • Las Vegas, Nevada • October 2, 1980

Culmination Of A Comeback

HAS PROFESSOR HOLMES EARNED HIS DAY IN SCHOOL?

By Robert Cassidy

In 1988, when Larry Holmes was a spry 38, Mike Tyson dribbled him about an Atlantic City boxing ring with all the subtlety of a polar bear on acid. Holmes claimed money was his motivation to come back as a late-night snack for Tyson. If he had a chance to do it again, he said, he would have taken a tuneup fight.

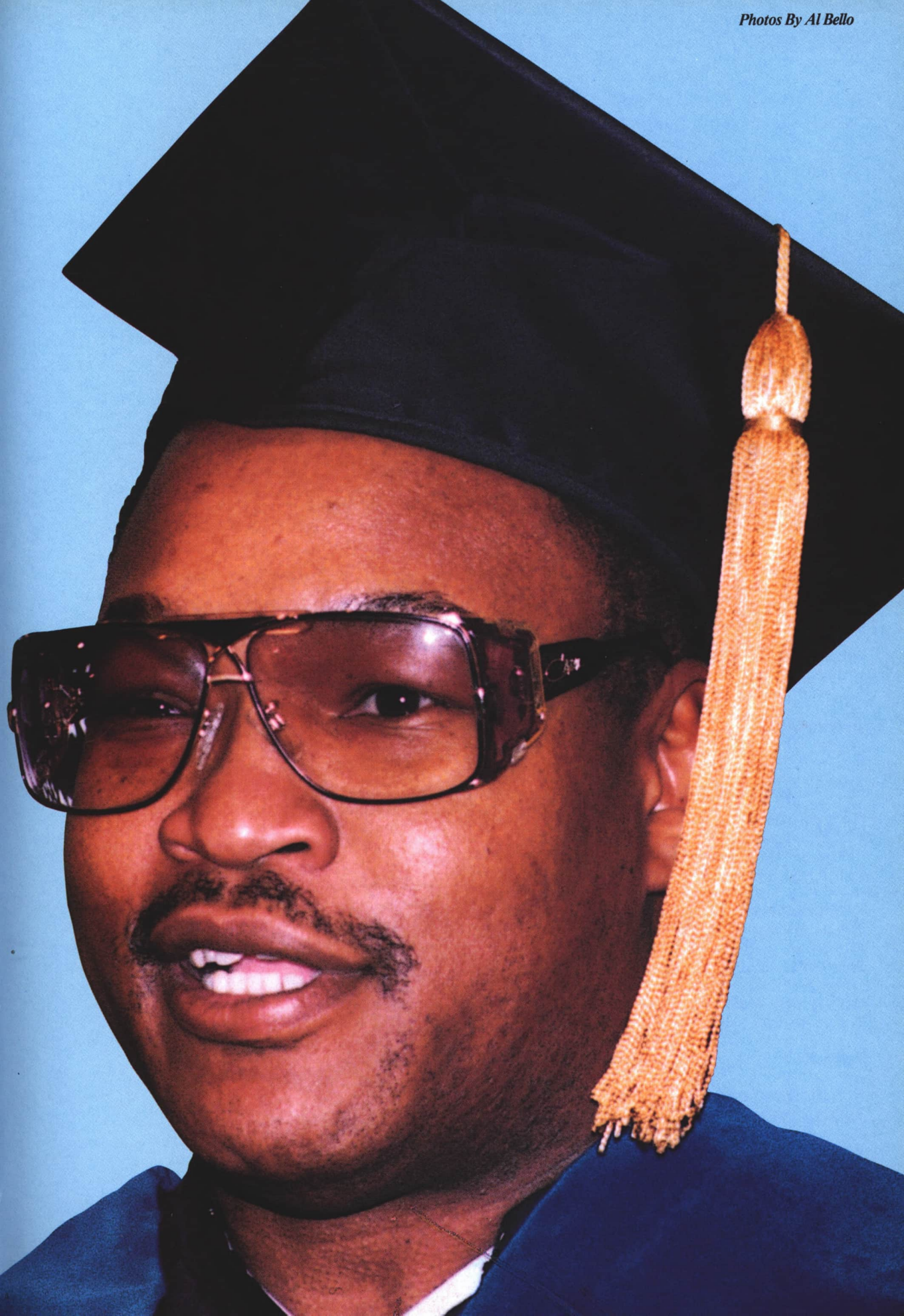
Well, four years have passed. Holmes has had *six* tuneups and has again positioned himself to make a lot of money. (Which, by the way, is not the root of all evil, but of all comebacks.) But is there really a marked difference in this Holmes and the fighter Tyson knocked out in four rounds?

Of course not. Holmes still isn't half the fighter he once was. Such criteria, however, has never stood in the way of making a profitable fight. So, on June 19 at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Holmes, now 42 and a grandfather, will challenge undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield.

In the wake of Tyson's rape conviction and the preposterous judging in recent nationally televised fights, boxing is bracing itself for another self-inflicted injury. The heavyweight champion of the world, the heir to the title of "Baddest Man On The Planet," is fighting another 42-year-old artifact. That hurts.

For all his buffoonery, George Foreman proved to be a worthy opponent for Holyfield. It's still undetermined whether the competitiveness of that fight said a lot for Foreman's ability or little for Holyfield's. Nonetheless, Holyfield-Foreman established all kinds of pay-per-view records, which *certainly* says more for Foreman than it does for Holyfield.

Now we have Holmes, who, come fight night, will be the second-oldest fighter to challenge for the heavyweight title. In 1956, Archie Moore was two weeks shy of his 43rd birthday when he was knocked out by a 21-year-old Floyd Patterson. On June 19, Holmes will be five months



Photos By Al Bello

George Foreman's message has reached Holmes. "I love George," he says. Should Holmes upset Holyfield, be sure that his first defense would come against the ageless Foreman.

RESPECTING YOUR ELDERS: On June 19, Larry Holmes, the grandfather, will challenge Evander Holyfield, the champion, for the undisputed heavyweight title. Holmes, who'll be 42 years and 7 months old, will be the second oldest fighter to ever participate in a heavyweight title fight. With the cutoff age at 37, we've compiled a list of the oldest combatants in heavyweight title fight history. The age of the opponent is noted in parenthesis.

Archie Moore:
42 years, 11 months
KO by 5 Floyd Patterson (21),
November 30, 1956

George Foreman:
42 years, 3 months
L 12 Evander Holyfield (28),
April 19, 1991

Archie Moore:
41 years, 9 months
KO by 9 Rocky Marciano (32),
September 21, 1955

Jersey Joe Walcott:
39 years, 4 months
KO by 1 Rocky Marciano (29),
May 15, 1953

Bob Fitzsimmons:
39 years, 2 months
KO by 8 James J. Jeffries (27),
July 25, 1902

Muhammad Ali:
38 years, 9 months
KO by 11 Larry Holmes (30),
October 2, 1980

Jersey Joe Walcott:
38 years, 8 months
KO by 13 Rocky Marciano (29),
September 23, 1952

Jersey Joe Walcott:
38 years, 5 months
W 15 Ezzard Charles (30),
June 5, 1952

Larry Holmes:
38 years, 2 months
KO by 4 Mike Tyson (21),
January 22, 1988

Jersey Joe Walcott:
37 years, 6 months
KO 7 Ezzard Charles (30),
July 18, 1951

Jersey Joe Walcott:
37 years, 2 months
L 15 Ezzard Charles (29),
March 7, 1951

Jack Johnson:
37 years, 1 month
KO by 26 Jess Willard (33),
April 5, 1915

—RC

shy of 43. Holyfield will be exactly four months from turning 30.

There remains intrigue with Foreman, a fat, bald, 42-year-old preacher who can punch. He has been more of an oddity than anything else. But is Holmes a worthy successor to Foreman? More importantly, is he worthy of a try for the heavyweight title? Those are two questions boxing fans are going to have to answer before they plunk down $35.95 to order Holyfield-Holmes on pay-per-view.

Holmes admits to patterning his comeback after Foreman. And though the final analysis can't be made until June 19, at this stage, at least, he seems to have orchestrated his return far better than Big George.

Holmes secured a title fight after only six fights; it took Foreman 24. The *coup de grace* for Holmes was a stirring unanimous decision over the highly rated Ray Mercer in February. Foreman lacked the temerity, or confidence, to challenge such a dangerous opponent on the road back.

Despite Mercer's chilling knockout over Tommy Morrison, the former Olympic gold medalist was considered by most experts to be the most beatable of the young heavyweights. Holmes agreed, and profited tremendously after taking a minimal risk. Foreman had already mastered such a strategy, but credit Holmes for executing it to its fullest.

"I'm following in the steps of George Foreman," Holmes said at a New York press conference. "I love George Foreman."

The public seems to love both of these guys, which is why Holyfield will be lucky enough to fight two over-40 challengers and pocket $38-million. The numbers don't lie: In 1991, Holmes starred in the two highest-rated shows on the USA Network's weekly boxing series. And HBO's highest-rated fight last year was the George Foreman-Jimmy Ellis atrocity.

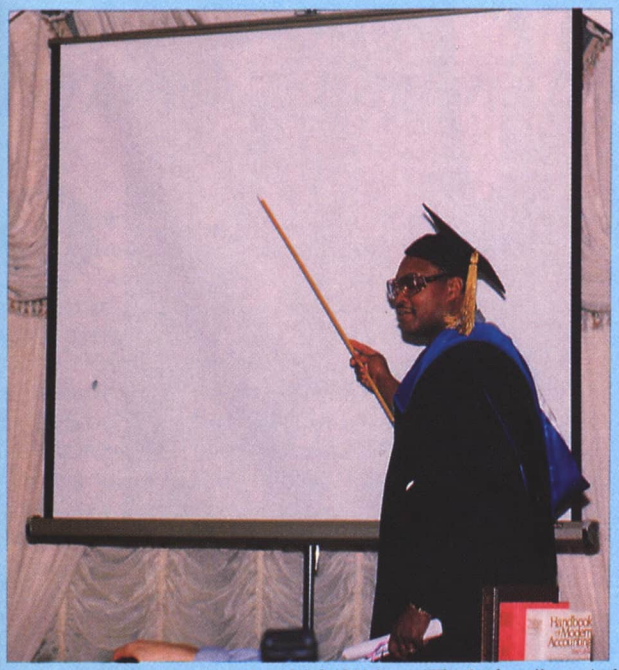
"George Foreman connects with every American," said

Ross Greenburg, Vice President and Executive Producer of HBO Sports. "The defiance of his age strikes a cord with the American people. He's having fun, and he's also a fighter who knocks people out with frequency. Larry came back and also recreated his own image. But he is not a new phenomenon. In the '80s, he was one of the highest-rated fighters on TV."

To take this obsession with the elderly one step further, the USA Network conducted a call-in poll, and its viewers voted for a Holmes-Foreman fight over both Holmes-Holyfield and Holyfield-Riddick Bowe. While a clash between boxing's Geritol Giants is not in the immediate plans of either fighter, Holyfield-Bowe was considered made until Holmes pulled off his upset of Mercer.

"Holyfield-Holmes starts up as a better marketing fight," said TVKO boss Seth Abraham. "Now we have to make it a believable one."

It can be argued that Holmes earned a title fight by virtue of his victory over Mercer. His performance will be used to hype the legitimacy of a fight with Holyfield. But does Holmes *really* deserve a title shot?



At the press conference announcing Holyfield-Holmes, "The Professor" promised to teach Holyfield a lesson on June 19. Why, Larry, is the screen blank?

"This is not a legitimate fight," said Rock Newman, Bowe's manager. "It's something that they may be able to promote into an event, but Holmes does not deserve a title shot. To me, it's the making of a fight that doesn't excite anybody."

With Tyson erased from the picture, Razor Ruddock and Bowe represent the greatest threat to Holyfield's throne, and are certainly more deserving of a shot at the heavyweight title than Holmes. They are rated among the top three by both the WBC and *The Ring*. (Holmes is rated seventh by the WBC and fifth by *The Ring*.) What Bowe, Ruddock, and the other young heavyweights lack is name recognition. And that happens to be Holmes' biggest asset.

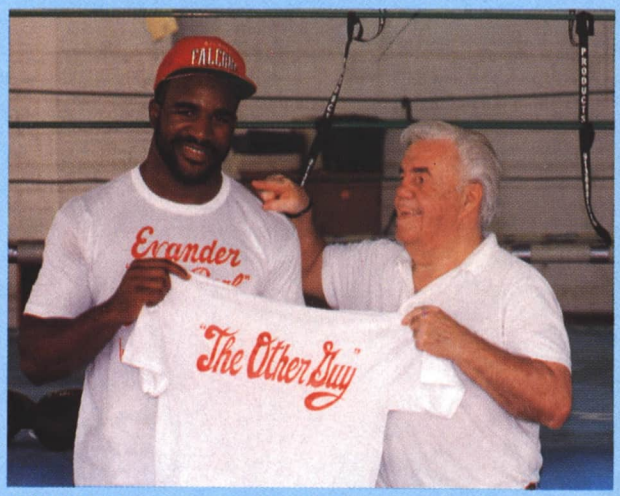
"None of these young heavyweights have captured the imagination of the American public," said Greenburg. "That's the bottom line. Holyfield-Bowe, Holyfield-Lennox Lewis, and Holyfield-Michael Moorer cannot generate $1.50 in pay-per-view money."

Holmes was heavyweight champion for seven years and made 20 successful title defenses. Fans tend not to forget such things. But they also haven't forgotten the infamous "jockstrap" quote uttered after Holmes fell one win short of tying Rocky Marciano at 49-0. When Holmes first walked away from boxing, he was a bitter fighter, and certainly not a beloved one.

But in following Foreman, he has undergone a personality makeover, like a rulebreaking wrestler who has changed his ways and become a good guy.

"Larry is having fun now," said Greenburg. "I can see it when he talks to the press and to the people."

Finally, Holmes has begun to relate to the public. After he outdueled Mercer, the Atlantic City Convention Center rocked with chants of "LAR-REE! LAR-REE!" And



Holyfield has been overshadowed by Mike Tyson and George Foreman. Will the suddenly popular Holmes also reduce him to "The Other Guy"?

while in New York to officially announce the Holyfield fight, Holmes was dressed in cap and gown as promoter Bob Arum dubbed him the "Doctor Of Pugilism." There were smiles all around. The biggest was on the face of Holmes.

"This is something I've wanted for a long time," he said.

And why not? He's always fought honestly. As champion, he bravely picked himself up after swallowing bombs from Earnie Shavers and Renaldo Snipes. He fought anyone and everyone. He may have never gotten our adulation, but he always had our respect. It seems that now he has both.

Don't be confused, though; money still drives Holmes. He either needs it, or can't get enough of it.

"I just told [Dan Duva] to give me whatever they got left," Holmes said. "I'm not trying to come back and make a few dollars. I want to win the world title and make a whole lot of dollars."

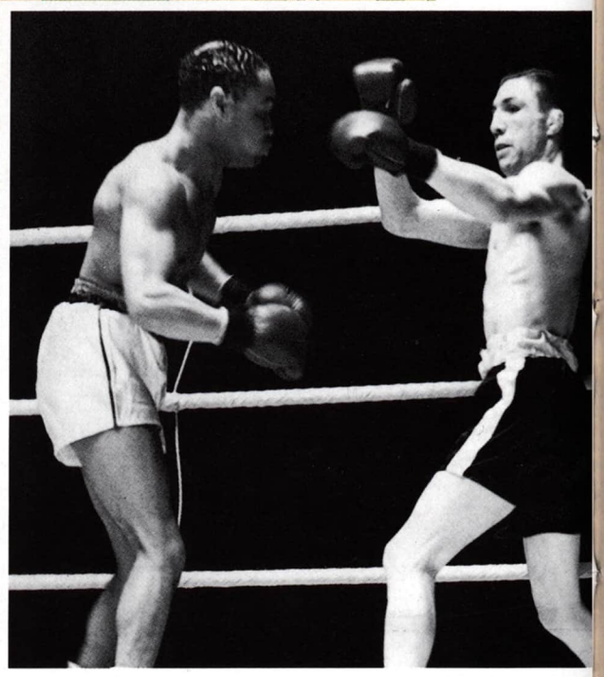
What was left was $7-million. That's about $4-million more than he made for fighting Tyson.

So the rich get richer, and boxing fans are asked to fork over $35.95 to add to the pot. Holyfield-Holmes could very well be a blowout, something boxing hardly needs right now.

"I think that every heavyweight champion looks to make the most money against the opponent who offers as little opposition as possible," said Greenburg. "Over the last 15 years, I've realized that any major event is good for boxing. This qualifies as a major event."

(Continued on page 70)

RETURN TO HARRINGAY



Arriving in London to appear at the farewell ceremony are (from left) Harringay veterans Max Baer, Gus Lesnevich, and Henry Armstrong. Right: Armstrong's 1937 title fight at Harringay vs. Ernie Roderick.

A Sentimental Farewell In England

One day in October 1958, a giant BOAC transoceanic airliner jerked to a stop at London Airport. The door opened, and out stepped three smiling, flat-nosed men bundled tightly in overcoats to protect against England's chill fall air. Flashbulbs popped as reporters and dignitaries moved in for warm handshakes and pats on the back. The massive man with hands like hams and dimples like valleys who looked to be exactly what his name implied, a Bear, planted a kiss on somebody's forehead and gushed, "It's great to be back in your country."

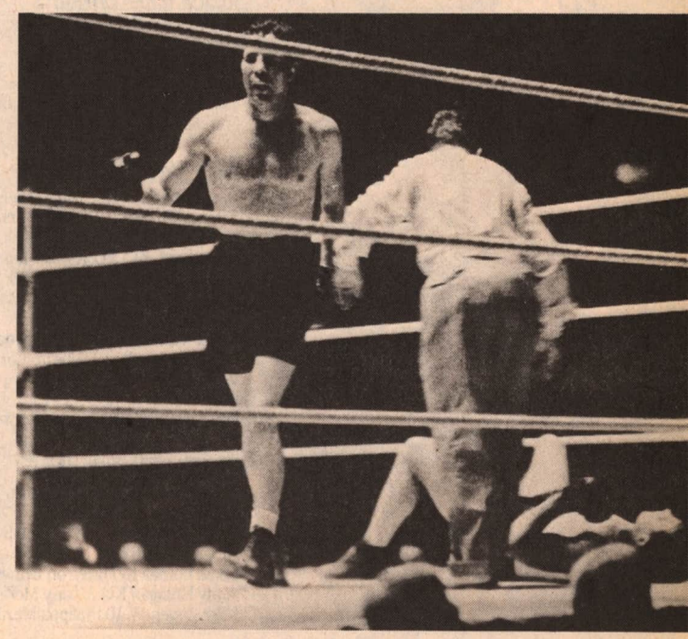
Three of America's most beloved old-time ring champions had returned to England to bid farewell to one of the world's most historic boxing arenas. Former heavyweight champion Max Baer, who 22 years before had lost a decision to Tommy Farr, and knocked out Ben Foord at hallowed Harringay; Gus Lesnevich, former light heavyweight champion, who stopped Freddie Mills and was himself stopped by Bruce Woodcock at Harringay; and overweight, heavy jowled Rev. Henry Armstrong, one-time triple champion, who in 1937 successfully defended the welterweight title at Harringay against England's brilliant Ernie Roderick.

All three visitors received tremendous ovations when introduced from Harringay's ring on the evening of the club's final boxing show. And, to make British hearts still sadder, their best lightweight, Dave Charnley, took a drubbing from New York's shifty Carlos Ortiz in the main event.

The next day workmen were busy stripping Harringay of her seats and her ring, in which more than 600 prize fights had been fought over the past 22 years. Harringay was being transformed into a grocery warehouse. ■

Gus Lesnevich, his face a bloody mask, walks to his corner after kayoing Freddie Mills in the 10th round of their light heavyweight title fight at Harringay.

Max Baer fought twice at Harringay. He lost to Tommy Farr in April 1937, then, as pictured, came back to knock out big Ben Foord in nine rounds.



Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Oliver McCall KO 4 Mike Rouse
Bruce Seldon KO 1 Dion Burgess
Leon Spinks W 10 Andre Crowder
Alex Stewart KO 3 Joey Christjohn
Joe Hipp W 10 Jesse Shelby
Joe Hipp W 8 Kevin Ford
Mike Hunter KO 3 Dave Jaco
James Tillis KO 3 Jack Jackson
Corrie Sanders W 10 Anthony Wade
Harry Terrell W 12 Art Card
Henry Akinwande KO 3 Young Joe Louis
Mark Gastineau KO 1 Troy Berg

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Akim Tafer W 12 Dennis Andries

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Virgil Hill W 10 Aundrey Nelson
Henry Maske KO 3 Sean Mannion
Ernesto Magdaleno KO 5 Bomani Parker
Wang Sup Lee KO 10 Dennis Leuli
Robert Folley W 10 Brad St. Clair
Robert Folley KO 2 Troy Jackson
Art Baylis KO 8 Drake Thadzi

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Nigel Benn KO 3 Dan Sherry
Tim Littles W 12 Antoine Byrd
Fidel Castro W 12 Lou Gent
Note: Castro formerly fought as Slugger O'Toole

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Gerald McClellan KO 1 Lester Yarborough
Darrin Morris KO 10 Jorge Maysonet
Robbie Sims W 10 Robert Curry

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris KO 9 Carl Daniels
(Retains WBC Title)
Aaron Davis W 10 Cirilo Nino
Troy Waters KO 3 Craig Trotter
Vincent Pettway W 12 Gilbert Baptist
Freddie Ladd W 10 Anthony Bryant

WELTERWEIGHTS
David Gonzalez KO 6 Juan Rondon
Patrizio Oliva W 12 Antoine Fernandez
Kevin Pompey W 12 Stephan Johnson
Buck Smith KO 3 Lorenzo Thomas
Buck Smith KO 2 Johnny Black
Buck Smith W 8 Bingo Dickerson
Buck Smith KO 4 Tony Taylor
Roger Turner W 12 Tyrone Moore
Spike Cheney W 10 Alberto Cortes
William Jones KO 3 Tim Rabon
Gary Jacobs W 12 Del Bryan
Louis Howard W 10 Larry Benson

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Anthony Jones KO 4 Leonardo Maciaz
Jimmy Paul KO 7 Todd Foster
Harold Brazier W 12 Dwayne Swift
Amancio Castro W 12 Mauricio Rodriguez
Louie Lomeli KO 6 Byron Brown
Andy Holligan KO 3 Tony McKenzie
Mike Evgen W 10 Philippa Martin

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell KO 5 Gilberto Flores
Darryll Tyson W 10 Eduardo Jaquez
Frankie Mitchell KO 10 Roberto Medina
Miguel Angel Gonzalez KO 8 Jose Mendez
Jeff Mayweather W 10 Carlos Castillo
Jeff Mayweather W 10 Leo Mijares
Nazarov Olzubek KO 1 Takehito Nakano
Wilfredo Rocha KO 6 Patricio Bonilla

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Azumah Nelson KO 8 Jeff Fenech
(Retains WBC Title)
Genaro Hernandez W 12 Omar Catari
(Retains WBA Title)
John-John Molina KO 4 Jackie Gunguluza
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Regilio Tuur KO 2 Armando Morales
Gabe Ruelas W 8 Tommy Valdez
Juan Baldwin W 10 Pee Wee Parker
Jacobin Yoma KO 7 Wilson Fontalvo
Eddie Hopson KO 1 Danny Hinojosa
Tony Pep W 12 Paul Harvey
Jorge Rodriguez KO 2 Danny Lopez

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Jose Vidal KO 3 Ricardo Cepeda
Jesse James Leija Tech. Dec. 9 Jose Martinez
Louie Espinoza KO 3 Lupe Gutierrez
Colin McMillan W 12 Percey Commey
Tony Green KO 1 Angel Vargas
Ever Beleno KO 4 Juan Francisco Valdez
Barrington Francis KO 8 Damien Sutton

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Tracy Patterson KO 1 Angel Levy Mayor
Vincenzo Belcastro KO 4 Miguel Pequeno
Jae Won Choi KO 7 Nick Ampong
Jesus Poll W 10 Albert Rendon
Maui Diaz KO 4 Cesar Zulueta

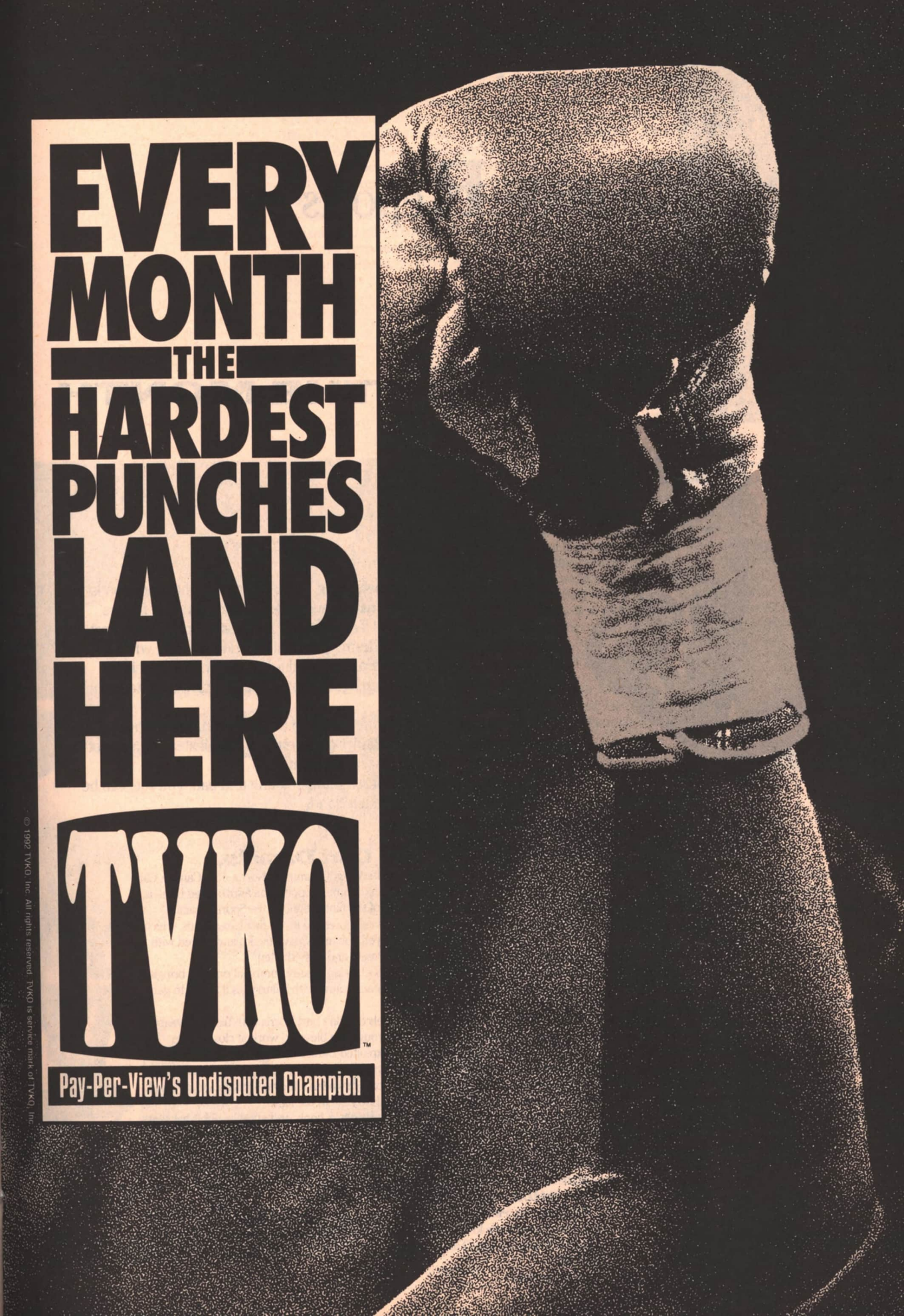
BANTAMWEIGHTS
Eddie Cook KO 5 Israel Contreras
(Wins WBA Title)
Junior Jones KO 5 Diego Avila
Gerardo Martinez KO 6 Hector Diaz
Joel Luna Zarate W 10 Alejandro Valenzuela

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay KO 3 Ricarte Cainiela
Jose Quirino W 12 Jose Ruiz
Nana Konadu KO 7 Luis Rosario

FLYWEIGHTS
Muangchai Kittikasem KO 9 Sot Chitalada
(Retains WBC Title)
Scotty Olson KO 5 Louis Curtis
Al Kotey KO 3 Ramon Solis
Salvatore Fanni D 12 Danny Porter
Francisco Tejedor KO 2 James Guevara
Kotaro Hayashi KO 10 Hiroaki Fukumoto

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Jesus Chong KO 11 Francisco Montiel
Kwang Sun Kim KO 3 Ponidi

STRAWWEIGHTS
Phalan Lukmingkwan KO 2 Felix Naranjo
(Retains IBF Title)
Hi Yong Choi KO 10 Yuichi Hosono
(Retains WBA Title)



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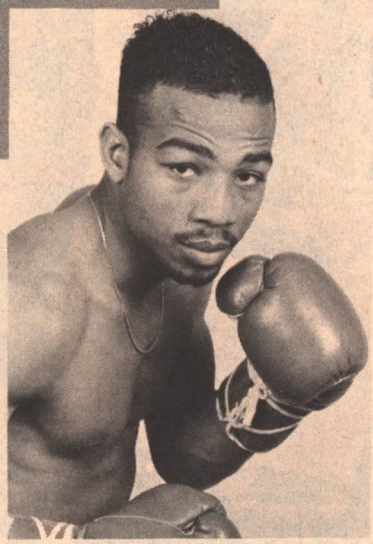
Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



Eddie Cook

Had Eddie Cook lost to defending WBA bantamweight champion Israel Contreras, as the oddsmakers suggested he would do, all fingers would have been pointed at Top Rank for reckless matchmaking. Last September, the diminutive destroyer was 15-0 and streaking when he was kayoed by Filipino veteran Dio Andujar. Contreras was a big puncher, and had Cook fallen again, it would likely have been too much to overcome.

But it turned out to be Contreras who fell. Cook's sharp, controlled performance justified Top Rank's confidence in him; instead of a forgotten prospect, he emerged a world champion.

The difference between good matchmaking and bad, you see, can be as simple as one well-placed left hand.

Terry Norris KO 9 Carl Daniels,

San Diego, California—WBC super welterweight champion Norris, 152, Campo, California, 31-3 (17), retained the title for the sixth time, stopping the fourth-rated Daniels, 152, St. Louis, Missouri, 26-1 (17), at 2:37 of the ninth round at the Sports Arena.

The 21-year-old southpaw challenger was impressive in the first two rounds, which he won on all three cards. Daniels employed bob and weave tactics and scored with jabs and straight lefts. Norris seemed confused, and missed often.

The champion took command in the third, firing speedy combinations and bringing his punches up on the inside. He finished each round with a flurry, as if trying to gain the eye of the judges.

By the fourth, it was evident that Daniels couldn't hurt Norris with his only weapon, a one-two combination. Norris walked through the blows to work at close range.

From the fifth round forward, Norris exploited Daniels' inexperience. He forced the challenger to the ropes and consistently scored with heavy hooks to the head. During the eighth round, Daniels, boxing with a badly swollen left eye, became a target, and his mouthpiece was punched out for the third time in the fight.

In the ninth, Norris caught Daniels with a right, a hook, and another right that sent him to the canvas. Referee Lou Filippo didn't bother to count.

After eight rounds, Norris led by scores of 77-75 (Tony Castellano), 78-74 (Tamotsu Tomihara), and 77-75 (Terry Smith). *The Ring* had the champion ahead by 78-74.

Muhummad Ali and Ken Norton were in attendance; the Sports Arena was the site of their first bout, which was won by Norton in March 1973.

The bout was televised by ABC, with Norris earning $150,000, and Daniels $25,000. Plans are being made for the champion to next defend against WBA welterweight titlist Meldrick Taylor on May 9 in Las Vegas.

(2-22-92)

Paul Silverman

Hi Yong Choi KO 10 Yuichi Hosono,

Seoul, South Korea—Challenging for world titles in Korea, Japanese fighters have won two of their last 28 bouts. Contributing to the futility was the 22-year-old Hosono, 105, 11-2-1 (8), who was knocked down four times and stopped in a game effort to dethrone WBA strawweight champion Choi, 104¼, 13-0 (6).

Choi, 26, exploded with solid rights in the first round, and twice floored the challenger. The finish seemed a matter of time, but Hosono fought back with strong hooks. He was felled again in the fifth, as Choi landed with speedy combinations. From the seventh through the ninth, however, he traded evenly with the Korean champion.

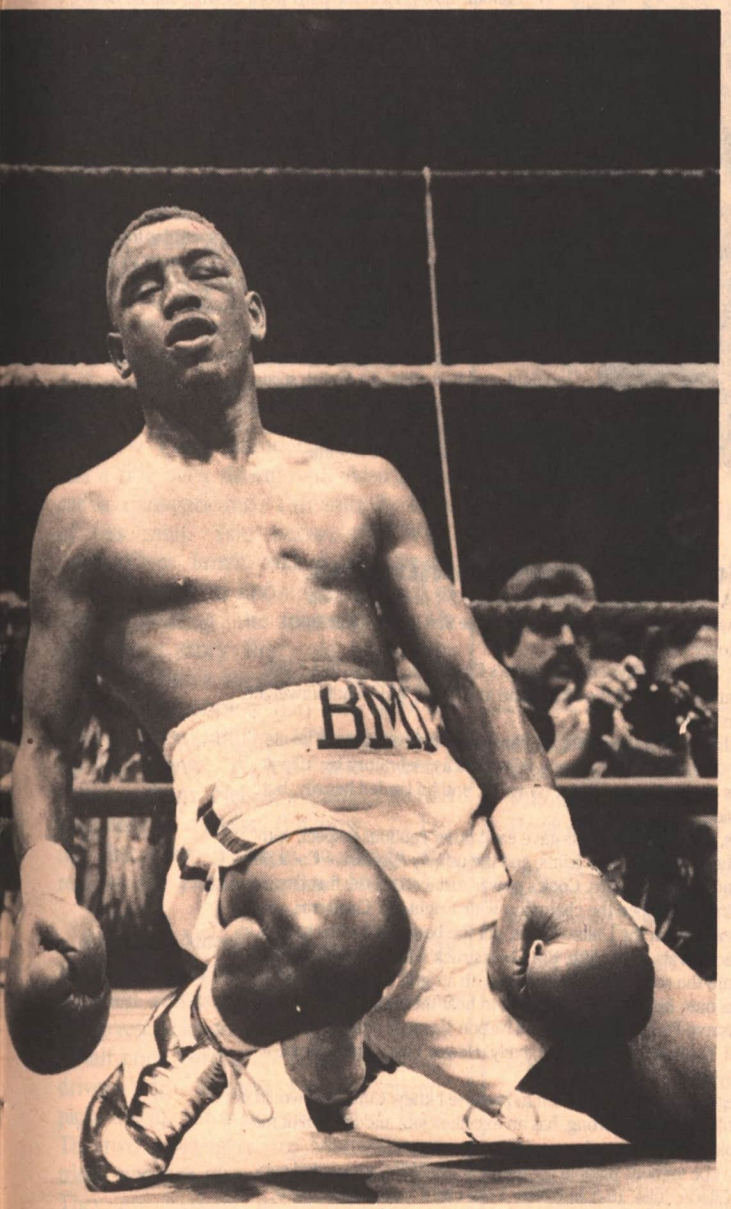
In round 10, after a flurry sent Hosono down for the fourth time, British referee John Coyle intervened. After nine rounds, Choi was ahead by scores of 86-82 (Panama's Marcos Torres), 88-83 (Venezuela's Fernando Viso), and 88-81 (Thailand's Pinij Prayadsub).

(2-22-92)

Joe Koizumi

John-John Molina KO 4 Jackie Gunguluza,

Sun City, Bophuthatswana—Puerto Rico's Molina, 26-3 (18), won the vacant IBF junior lightweight title by proving too strong and experienced in stopping South African Gunguluza, 24-3 (11), at the Sun City Super Bowl. The end came at 2:56 of the fourth round.



Daniels was spent at the finish

Molina was in control from the first bell, and all Gunguluza had to offer was guts and a bit of boxing skill. In the opening round, Molina, who previously held two versions of the 130-pound crown, built up points with snappy combinations and energy-sapping rights to the body.

In the second, Gunguluza tried to retaliate with a couple of hooks, but he never bothered the classy visitor. The South African looked rather dejected by the third, and midway through the fourth, he was stunned by a right to the temple. Then a short right and a smashing hook dropped him flat on his back. The courageous fighter did well to beat the count of referee Sam Williams.

A chopping right to the side of the head dropped Gunguluza for a second time. Again he rose, and again he was downed by right hands. Immediately after the third knockdown, Williams waved the bout over.

Brian Mitchell, who had vacated the title, worked ringside as a TV commentator. Afterward, Molina said it would be "an honor" to defend against the South African, but Mitchell expressed no interest.

(2-22-92)

Ron Jackson

Muangchai Kittikasem KO 9 Sot Chitalada,

Samut Prakan, Thailand—Younger and faster, WBC flyweight champion Kittikasem, 17-1 (11), twice dropped former titlist and compatriot Chitalada, 26-4-1 (16), bloodied him, and stopped him in the ninth round at Crocodile Farm. It was the champion's third defense.

Thai insiders had predicted doom for the 30-year-old Chitalada, who had been kayoed by Kittikasem in February 1991. The old soldier started adequately, but in the second, the 23-year-old Kittikasem struck with a smashing right. Chitalada fell, and later in the round, was again driven to the canvas by another right.

From the third round on, however, Kittikasem slowed, perhaps fearing burnout; he had reduced two pounds just before the morning weigh-in. Chitalada felled the champion with a hook in round five, but referee Marty Denkin ruled it a slip. In the seventh, Chitalada suffered a wide gash on his left eyebrow, the result of an unintentional butt. Kittikasem was penalized a point, and Chitalada was reduced to a bloody mess.

In the ninth, Denkin didn't hesitate to step in after Chitalada's knees were buckled by a solid right. Immediately afterward, Chitalada announced his retirement.

(2-28-92)

Joe Koizumi

Phalan Lukmingkwan KO 2 Felix Naranjo,

Nakhon Pathon Province, Thailand—IBF miniflyweight champion Lukmingkwan, 20-1-1 (8), retained the crown for the sixth time, swarming over Colombia's number-one rated Naranjo and sinking him for the count at the 1:49 mark of the second round at Sanam Chan Palace Ground.

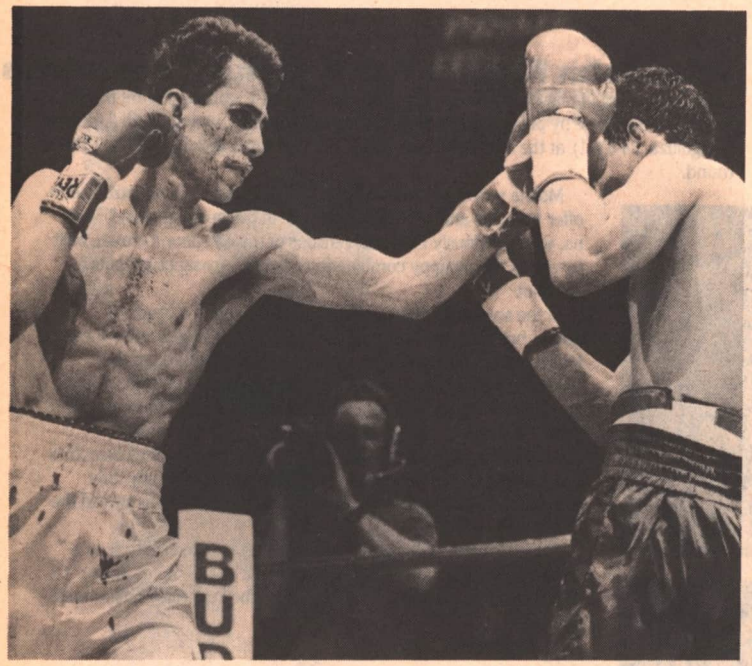
Clearly trying for a quick kayo, Lukmingkwan, 23, stalked his cautious foe from the opening bell. Naranjo attempted to keep his distance and counter, but in round two, he was pinned against the ropes. Lukmingkwan dug vicious blows into Naranjo's midsection and mixed in punches to the head. Naranjo eventually slumped to the canvas and failed to beat the count of referee Abraham Pacheco.

"We will fight [IBF junior flyweight champion] Michael Carbajal in the nearest future," said Banchu Ongsaengkoon, the champion's manager.

(2-23-92)

Joe Koizumi

Genaro Hernandez W 12 Omar Catari,



Hernandez overcame some nasty cuts

Inglewood, California—Hernandez, 126½, Los Angeles, retained the WBA junior lightweight title for the first time, scoring a unanimous decision over 1984 Olympic bronze medalist Catari, 129½, Venezuela, before 6,087 at the Great Western Forum.

Lou Moret (United States) scored 116-111, Mederdo Villalobos (Panama) 115-112, and Rodolfo Hill (Panama) 116-112.

The referee was Larry Rozadilla.

Hernandez, 26-0 (11), made hard work of what should have been an easy fight; he tried to stop Catari early and became involved in an inside brawl. Fighting at close range suited the shorter challenger, who was prepared to strike with anything—including his head.

Catari, 10-4 (2), had a point deducted for butting in round six, but several other infractions went unpunished, including a fourth-round butt that split the champion's right eyebrow. In the later rounds, Hernandez' left eye was cut as well.

Fortunately for the local favorite, cutman John Montes Sr. was able to control the cuts. Still, Hernandez spent far too much time against the ropes. He finally listened to his corner's instructions over the last three rounds, and by jabbing, moving, and scoring with his overhand right, he pulled away.

Hernandez was paid $95,000; Catari $10,000.

Afterward, the champion complained that he had scaled far too light, and had utilized a foolish strategy.

"I could not move my legs, my stomach felt full of air," he said. "I fought the wrong fight. The cuts worried me; I was scared I was going to lose my title."

(2-24-92)

David Wood

Eddie Cook KO 5 Israel Contreras,

Las Vegas, Nevada—At Bally's Resort Casino, explosive 2-1 underdog Cook emerged as boxing's newest big little man and became the first locally developed world champion since Roger Mayweather.

Cook, 118, Las Vegas, 17-1 (15), kayoed Venezuela's Contreras, 117½, 36-3-1 (30), with a stunning combination at 1:57 of the fifth round to win the WBA bantamweight title. It was Contreras' first defense.

The greatest danger threatening the southpaw came after referee Richard Steele counted out the 31-year-old champion. The new titlist tried a celebratory backflip at ring center. His leap was aborted in mid-flight, however, and he landed heavily, but unscathed, on his right side.

In the first two rounds, the bantamweights gave each other cautious respect, with Contreras dipping with head and shoulder feints, and the usually aggressive Cook offering lateral movement and long-range jabs. Cook's power surfaced for the first time in round three, when he almost dropped the champion with a right-left. Contreras, making only his second appearance in the United States, got the better of the exchanges in the fourth, and tried to accelerate in the fifth. But Cook struck with a straight left that drove the Venezuelan into the ropes. He followed up with a right, left, and right. The final blow sent Contreras onto his side. He attempted to beat the count, but failed.

After four rounds, Gustavo Padilla (Panama) and Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico) had Cook ahead by scores of 39-38 and 39-37, respectively. Hector Hernandez (Mexico) saw Contreras leading by 39-37.

"My plan from the beginning was to outbox him because I knew Contreras would be coming to me," said Cook. "He's very strong, has an excellent jab, and he caught me with a heck of a left hook in round three."

Cook's title reign won't be without suitable competition; the WBA's top-rated contenders are Colombia's Eliecer Julio, 19-0, and New York City's Junior Jones, 22-0.

(3-15-92)

Jack Welsh ■

Superfight Diary

(Continued from page 25)

ently aware of the negative publicity concerning refereeing and scoring at Nelson-Fenech I.

***

I make a point of introducing myself to ring announcer Ray Connelly, who is known as "The Lord of the Ring." He's the best in the world, bar none. (Johnny Addie would be proud.) Connelly, a 40-year veteran, is an easy-going, unassuming gentleman who is very much a student of the sport. I find his eloquent ring introductions a welcomed alternative to those given by the glorified and narcissistic nobodies who handle the same chore in the USA. And he doesn't read off of index cards.

***

While touring the grounds, I'm approached by members of Nelson's camp—sans Azumah—who ask for my prediction. My tabbing Fenech by late-round TKO or decision does not sit well with them. One bald-headed man smiles and asks, "How much would you like to bet, my friend?"

I pacify him by guaranteeing that he'll have no problems finding Fenech money tomorrow.

***

Fellow Long Islander Mercante offers a ride back downtown. Also in the car is Penagaricano. I'm initially leery of this man. You know, the WBC thing. Over lunch and a few beers, however, I get to know him, as well as others assisting the promotion. He confirms a story first told to me by one of Nelson's supporters: In the first fight, the champion had not fully recovered from January 1991 surgery on his left elbow. A legitimate excuse? Coming from Nelson's camp, it had been easy to dismiss. But now . . . For the first time, I begin to doubt my reasons for picking against Nelson.

Sunday, March 1—Unfortunately, the weatherman's prediction of fight-day rain comes true. After converting my greenbacks to local dollars, I wait a half-hour before an enterprising taxi driver, who already has passengers, picks me up for a ride to Princes Park. The two passengers are Maltese expatriots who are also attending the fight. They are looking to bet heavily on

(Continued on page 54)

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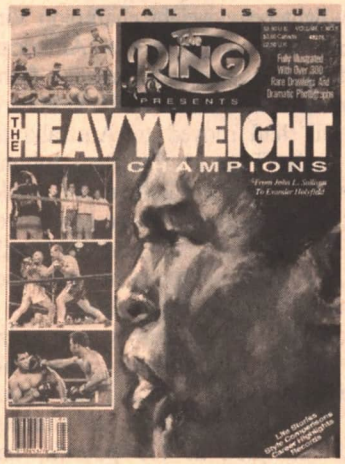

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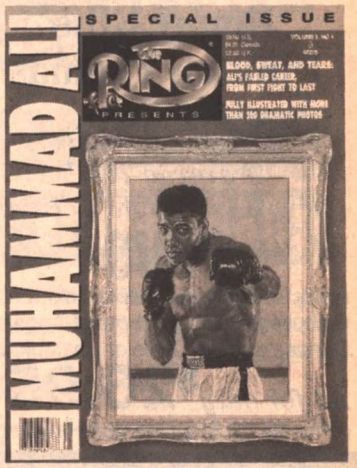

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Superfight Diary

(Continued from page 53)

Fenech. (Both of Fenech's parents are from Malta.) I tell them to look for a bald-headed Ghanian, who can't be hard to find.

***

The rain does not deter an all-time Australian record crowd of 35,000. The undercard begins with former WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill outpointing fellow American Aundrey Nelson in workmanlike fashion over 10 dull rounds. When I heard that Hill had moved to Australia to train under Fenech's handler, Johnny Lewis, I figured the bold move would result in his becoming more aggressive. Unfortunately, it is the same old Virgil. One Australian photographer asks me, "Is he always this boring?"

Promoter Bill Mordey's new prize gem, Russian Kostya Tszyu, makes his professional debut, blitzing his opponent in one round. Tszyu, an amateur world champion at 139 pounds, has relocated to Sydney. He is also trained by Lewis.

Grahame "Spike" Cheney, a 1988 Olympic silver medalist, remains unbeaten by outpointing Mexican veteran Alberto Cortez in a grueling 10-round welterweight bout. Cortez' only other loss had come against Julio Cesar Chavez. The 22-year-old Cheney is tough, but it's still too early to make a long-range prediction.

***

Between the final preliminary bout and the main event, former world featherweight champion Johnny Famechon, who has been confined to a wheelchair since being hit by a car last year, receives a huge ovation as he is wheeled to his ringside seat. Several benefits have been staged to help offset his staggering medical bills, and Fenech has donated the gloves he will use in the fight, which will be raffled off.

I speak briefly with Eric Fenech, the champion's older brother. He is seated next to Con Spyropoulos, a mentally handicapped adult who is a longtime friend of the challenger. Both are utterly confident that in a matter of minutes, they will be witness to a coronation.

***

The prefight buzz is broken when Connelly enters the ring. Shortly after, music is blasted on the stadium sound system, and the crowd goes wild as Fenech's image appears on the scoreboard. The cheering becomes louder, and steadily increases until Fenech climbs into the ring. It is the most electrifying atmosphere I have experienced at a championship fight since 1983, when Roberto Duran knocked out Davey Moore before a standing-room-only crowd at Madison Square Garden.

***

Nelson enters the ring looking like the all-knowing, mystical Yoda from the *Star Wars* trilogy. He is wearing a regal black velvet crown with gold stars. Both fighters are calm and poised as their respective national anthems are played.

During the introductions, the rain intensifies and finds three openings in the ring's overhead canopy. Neither fighter seems particularly concerned with the puddles that begin to form on the canvas.

The crowd reacts with a predictably partisan response to Connelly's introductions. There is a tension and excitment that I can touch.

***

Nelson interrupts the obligatory first-round feeling-out process by dropping his opponent with a sharp right. Although Fenech gets up quickly, he is visibly dazed, and Nelson again hurts him near the end of the round. The crowd seems in shock. A second-round knockdown—it could easily have been ruled a slip—presumably puts Fenech further behind in the scoring.

It appears that after the fifth round, Fenech has found his way back into the fight. I give him the fourth and fifth as he bulls Nelson into the ropes and outscores the Ghanian. But Nelson, fighting with his back against the ropes, rocks Fenech with hard lefts and rights at the end of the sixth, and the Australian is saved by the bell. Only the most loyal Fenech fans believe he can still win.

Nelson lures Fenech to the ropes in the eighth round and waits for an opening. He scores his third knockdown with three hooks to the head and followup rights. Ever the tough guy, Fenech is up as Mercante's count reaches three. But six more unanswered punches come from the champion, and the fight is mercifully stopped at the 2:20 mark.

Two of the judges must have been affected by the surroundings. Americans Rudy Ortega and Tommy Kaczmarek somehow have the fight even after seven rounds. (England's Harry

Gibbs has Nelson ahead by three points.) *The Ring's* scorecard favors Nelson by 68-63.

***

The fighters compliment each other at the postfight press conference. There are no excuses from Fenech, who applauds Nelson for his performance.

"I've been a champion fighter," says Fenech, 26-1-1 (19). "Now I want to show that I'm a champion person."

Nelson, 35-2-1 (26), is just as courteous, commending Fenech's heart, desire, and toughness, and studiously pointing out the flaws in his foe's style.

"I'm am a professor of boxing," he says. "Fenech is a great fighter, but today I proved that I'm better."

***

At the postfight party, the mood is somber. There seems to be a sense of relief that the event is over, as if it were the day after Christmas. Surprisingly, most of the early arrivals are more interested in talking to—and about—Kostya Tszyu than the fighters in the main event.

My work done, I decide to become involved in the second biggest battle being waged in Australia: the beer war between Touhey's and Foster's. But after a few rounds, I avoid unnecessary carnage by switching to the brand that made Milwaukee famous, Miller Black Label. An ugly American indeed.

Fight talk, of course, is everywhere. Mordey makes a point of saying, "Hey, Fenech isn't through. He still has a long way to go."

A more upbeat Carl King agrees, and adds, "These people shouldn't be disappointed in Fenech. He fought his heart out, but simply lost to a great champion. I only hope that people will finally give Azumah the credit *he* deserves. He was magnificent."

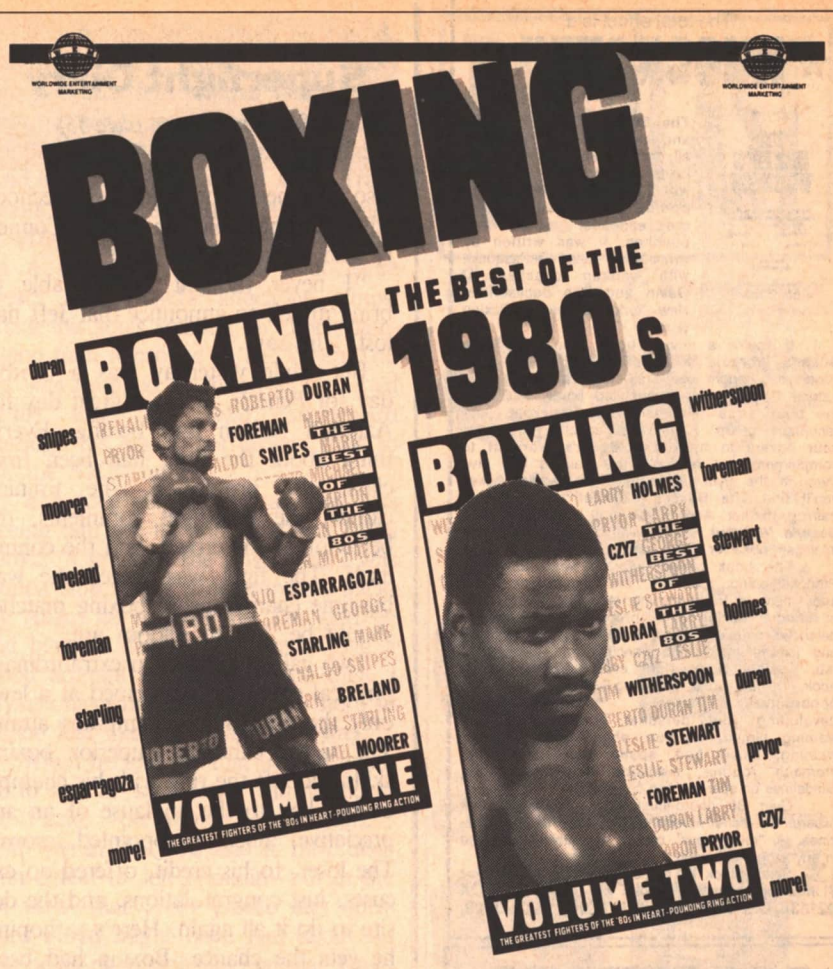
A low-key Nelson arrives late in the evening and works the room, graciously accepting congratulations. The champion is a class act in and out of the ring.

Monday, March 2—The airline calls and says I can take an earlier flight to Sydney, where I will be starting my *real* vacation. So I will have to skip seeing the victor and vanquished on their respective days after.

While waiting for my flight at the airport, I bump into Eric Fenech and Con. Fenech says that his brother is very disappointed and feels that he let a lot of people down.

Later on, I meet up with Connelly,

(Continued on page 56)



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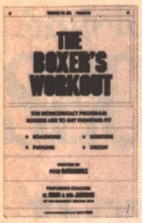

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Superfight Diary

(Continued from page 55)

also a Fenech confidant, who echoed what Eric had told me earlier. Connelly also took the loss hard.

"I never thought I'd be able to bring myself to announce that Jeff had lost," he says.

But while yesterday was a terrible day for Fenech, it was a great day for Azumah Nelson and boxing. Everything about the fight had been first-class: the promotion, the training camps, the post-fight comments, the behavior of the crowd, and the contest itself. The fight was waged the way big-time championship boxing matches should be, but so seldom are.

Two gallant fighters in extraordinary physical condition performed at a level only the greatest of champions attain. The victor exhibited superior boxing skills and left the ring with his championship belt to the applause of an appreciative, albeit disappointed, crowd. The loser, to his credit, offered no excuses, just congratulations, and the desire to do it all again. Here's to hoping he gets the chance. Boxing had been served well. ■

Tracy Patterson

(Continued from page 37)

would have jumped 20 trucks, all right. He would have taken 20 jumps and cleared them one at a time. Discretion, thy name is Patterson. In ascending to the top spot in the ratings of the WBA, WBC, and IBF, and compiling a record of 44-2 (33), 27-year-old Tracy has left behind no trail of bitten-off fingernails or empty bottles of Maalox.

As his son's manager and trainer, Floyd has booked more tuneups than the merry Tex-i-co men. Tracy hasn't fought from Maine to Mexico, just Michigan to Florida, New York to Nebraska, and South Carolina to Missouri. He's sent more feathers flying than a pillow fight in a college dorm. Since a May 1989 decision loss to Steve Cruz, he's battled 14 times. Since being rated first by the WBA, he's fought four more tuneups. Is it soup yet?

"By the time he fights for the title," says promoter Johnny Bos, "he's going to have a white beard and a cane."

"The title fight is long overdue," Tracy admits. "I know I've had a lot of tuneups. But when you're number-one in the world, what's the sense of going out and taking a tough fight?"

"When you hold a guy back from the title like I've held Tracy back," says Floyd, "it makes him very hungry. He was ready for a title shot a year ago. By waiting, he's more equipped. You don't fight 17 times as a pro and then hope to get your experience *as* champion. When Tracy wins the title, I expect him to have it for a long time."

Why is Patterson being moved this way? He's not facing anybody tough. Too many tuneups. Can he fight or not? What does his manager fear?

If you're at least as old as Evander Holyfield's challengers (that's a minimum age requirement of 40), this must all sound very familiar. Through 31 pre-title fights and two reigns as heavyweight champion, Floyd Patterson heard the criticism directed at *his* manager-trainer, Cus D'Amato. When there was an Eddie Machen or a Zora Folley or a Sonny Liston making noise, D'Amato covered his ears and instead went looking for a Roy Harris, a Brian London, or a Pete Rademacher.

The strategy kept Floyd on the throne, and D'Amato on the hotseat, for three years in the first reign and two years in the second. Eventually, Floyd got tired of the criticism and demanded that D'Amato sign for the toughest challenger in the world. If Evel Knievel had his Snake River Canyon, then Floyd Patterson had his Sonny Liston. The only difference is that Evel's plunge was at least slowed by a parachute.

"I watch films of my dad's fights because I pick up things that help me," Tracy says. "But I don't watch those losses. Even though it was in the past, it bothers me. I fast-forward through it."

***

Rewind—to 1940s New York. Long before Petula Clark advised against it, an 11-year-old Floyd Patterson would sleep in the subway. Not on the train, but on a small ledge in the tunnel beneath High Street in Brooklyn. Incredibly shy and sensitive for a street kid, Patterson would regularly run away from his home in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant ghetto. Sometimes he would spend an entire day in the darkness of a movie theater. Other times, he'd wander the streets. Whatever he did, he did it alone.

So 30 years later, long after Floyd

had sat atop the plushest throne in boxing, had a family, stopped fighting, and bought himself a big house and a gym in New Paltz, New York, he knew who he was looking at when he first laid eyes on an 11-year-old local kid named Tracy Harris. Floyd was looking at himself.

Tracy would hang around Floyd's gym and watch the fighters train. But long after everyone went home, the ex-champ would look out his kitchen window and see Tracy sitting by himself on a big rock beneath the trees in the backyard. Floyd knew the kid wasn't any more enthralled by nature than a young Floyd was intrigued by subway tunnel architecture, so he started inviting the painfully shy youngster to stay for cookouts, hired him to do yardwork, and eventually asked him if he'd like to try boxing.

"I saw he had an awful lot of talent," Floyd says. "And I saw what a special person he was. After I got to know him—God knows how long that took—I fell in love with him."

When Tracy was 13, his mother, Annie Harris, decided to move down to Alabama, but he didn't want to join her. Floyd asked her permission to become Tracy's legal guardian, and she granted it. A few years later, Floyd adopted him.

Thus far, the Pattersons have avoided the tension that is almost always associated with those ill-fated father-son boxing relationships. Unlike the Olajides or Hiltons, families that grew apart because they never *were* apart, Tracy is married, and hasn't lived in Floyd's house for about seven years. Most importantly, he and Floyd haven't acted out their story like the Hollywood cliche many would like it to be. Tracy doesn't feel any pressure of having to win one for Pop. Floyd has his own scrapbook, and Tracy's accomplishments are not Dad's measure of success.

"He cares about my feelings more than he does about his own," Tracy explains. "He respects my wishes. The only reason he wants me to win the title is because he knows *I* want it."

The Pattersons' work in the gym is never characterized by screaming or lectures, but by affection and sensitivity. Floyd's pet peeve is Tracy's habit of standing still to admire his quick, powerful combinations, not retreating to safety. An exasperated Floyd will lecture Tracy on what he's doing wrong, then punctuate the lesson with, of all things, a loving embrace.

"If a person feels loved, he can do anything," Floyd says. "It gets shaky when a man tells another man, 'I love you.' I don't have that problem. My mother and father loved me but never said it. I really believe that when Tracy hears it, it makes him a better fighter."

When Tracy lost a decision to Cruz in a nationally televised bout three years ago, Floyd's affections almost made his son's setback far more damaging than it proved to be. When Tracy was dropped in round eight, Floyd didn't wish he could fast-forward through the scene, but instead tried to hit the STOP button.

"The toughest part of all this was seeing him get hit and go down," says Floyd. "I grabbed the towel and I was gonna stop it. My brother-in-law, Mickey Allan, he stopped me. I'm glad he did because Tracy went on to give a good account of himself. Since then, I always have my brother-in-law there so I'll be less likely to react that way."

"When he told me that he had wanted to stop it," says Tracy with a chuckle, "I said, 'You wanted to do *what?!*'"

It was in that loss and a 1987 decision defeat to Jeff Franklin—not in the 44 wins—that Tracy erased any questions Floyd might have had about his son being championship material. Floyd had never taken losing well, going so far as to hide his shame behind a fake beard and glasses after his first loss to Liston. Tracy felt no need to hang his head. Not even when he was picking himself off the canvas.

"When he got hurt, he didn't get afraid," Floyd says. "He got angry. He went looking for revenge. That tells you a lot about an individual."

As different as Tracy and Floyd may be, the comparisons between their careers aren't easy to ignore. In D'Amato, Floyd had a strong father figure guiding him out of his loneliness and into an existence where the intrusion of strangers is commonplace. He also lost early in his career, in his 13th pro fight, but rebounded impressively. Tracy expected to battle fading Daniel Zaragoza for the WBC title, just as Floyd faced a ringworn Archie Moore, but those plans were scuttled when Thierry Jacob dethroned Zaragoza in March.

This image of two generations of fighting Pattersons even has its own soundtrack. Before his last tuneup, Tracy sat in his dressing room, listening to a little hip-hop and some Hammer on his tape player. Soon after Floyd returned from a trip down the hall, one

(Continued on page 58)

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Tracy Patterson

(Continued from page 57)

side of the tape ran out, the machine shut off, and one could hear the sound of Frank Sinatra singing "Strangers In The Night" as it poured out of an overhead speaker that was pumping soft music through the dressing room area.

Spooky.

After he regained his crown by knocking out Ingemar Johansson, Floyd met Sinatra on the set of a movie in California.

"Maybe if I win the title," Tracy says, "I'll meet Hammer."

If he wins the title, he should have his pick of the whole tool box.

***

Angel Levy Mayor is in The Paramount, Madison Square Garden's little sister arena, for one purpose: to be about as threatening to Tracy Patterson as someone's little sister. Mayor went the distance with legendary WBA featherweight king Eusebio Pedroza in 1984, and he outpointed former IBF bantamweight titlist Kelvin Seabrooks in 1990. But at 29 years of age, and inactive for the past 15 months, this Mayor is strictly a lame duck.

Still, the Venezuelan is supposed to last a few rounds and give Tracy some work. If there is a four-knockdown rule, maybe he will. But Tracy drops him with a blazing left hook, floors him again with a barrage capped by a left uppercut, then uses one final hook to score a third knockdown and force an automatic stoppage. It is over at 2:15 of round one.

"It was *not* supposed to be easy," Floyd says. "But this is good. This gives Tracy a lot of confidence."

"Tracy's learning at a good pace," says WBC welterweight king Buddy McGirt, a workoholic who fought 38 times before getting his first title shot, and who currently has 58 fights under his championship belt. "I like the fact that he knocked a guy out right before his title shot. When you're in position for a shot, and you're just waiting around for s____ to happen, you go nuts.

"When you fight a lot, like he has, you're fighting different guys, so you can adapt to any style or adversity when you fight for the title. If the champ turns southpaw, you've already fought southpaws. If he gets rough, no problem. You've fought tough guys before."

"There is no substitute for activity," adds Kronk trainer Emanuel Steward. "Ali, Robinson, Pep, Tyson, all the great fighters were active. The trick is matching him easy so he doesn't get burned out. A James Toney gets more wear and tear in five fights than Patterson gets in 25."

Sure a diet of soft food is easy on the jaw, but is it necessarily nutritious?

"Tracy's a good fighter, but it's not my philosophy to fight five or six soft fights in a row when you're waiting for a title shot," says Ron Katz, a matchmaker for Top Rank. "You can fall into a pattern when you're fighting bums. You take chances and do things in there that you'll pay for when you do them against a champion. I've seen a lot of fighters pay a big price for fighting too many soft guys."

Tracy Patterson has yanked at the chains. He's kept a glass to the wall in the hope of hearing even the faintest of opportunity's knocks. But through the endless waiting and the blur of all those indistinguishable tuneups, he's never lost his focus. And he remains convinced that the foundation his career architect designed is the only one he could ever trust to support his dream.

On the verge of his big test, he is incredibly calm and confident. Maybe that's because he knows that on judgment night, his job will be the easier one. It is Floyd who will experience a night that will make those others he spent staring into the eyes of a raging Sonny Liston, or the lens of an unsympathetic television camera, seem relaxing by comparison.

This time he won't be looking out from behind a peek-a-boo defense or a fake beard and glasses. No, he'll be peering around a corner pad and between two strands of rope, a towel in his fist, his brother-in-law's hand on his shoulder, a heart full of love sitting somewhere in his throat, and the wisdom of his grand design on trial before the world. ■

Boxing's Greatest Ring

(Continued from page 34)

"Fighters, managers, promoters, matchmakers, anybody who was anybody was there," says Rudd. "You'd see guys making new acquaintances, guys cuttin' up old touches, guys making deals, and other guys just hoping to be

seen. Celebrities, financiers, hoods, molls—that was the setting on Friday nights. You had lots of garment guys, too, with their white-on-white shirts, escorting their wives and/or mistresses up to sit in the first two rows. Or maybe Frank Costello, the gang lord—dapper, soft-spoken. Outside, 49th Street would be packed like New Year's Eve, and all the fight guys would go eat at Sorrento's, this fancy Italian restaurant, if they could afford to. You'd see the mob guys there, too, talking about the night of fights to come."

If the Garden lobby was bustling, it hinted at the boxing industry that had sprung up around New York. There were plenty of second-rung fight venues, and renowned gyms like Stillman's. There were fight-crowd bars like the Neutral Corner, Mickey Walker's saloon, and Toots Shor's. Still looking for someone? Try the Forrest Hotel, where boxers often stayed and sunned themselves out front on 49th Street, or the Capitol Hotel, out of which Chris and Angelo Dundee operated.

"It was right opposite the old Garden," Angelo says, "and you don't know how many days, when I was just a bucket guy, I sat in the window and looked over there and dreamed. There was only one feeling like having a fight in Madison Square Garden, that feeling like, *Hey, we made it.*"

Like starlets, new fighters were *discovered* in those days. Dundee recalls the day Charlie Goldman came rushing into Stillman's raving about "this balding guy with bad balance and two left feet—but, *oooh,* can he punch!"

Dundee laughs. "It was Rocky Marciano."

Brenner remembers the day his friend Irving Cohen, a corset salesman turned fight manager, was approached by a dese-and-dose young middleweight in a zoot suit and a DA haircut.

"I took one look and told Irving, 'Get rid of the bum!' " Brenner says and laughs. "It was Rocky Graziano. People used to line up and pay 50 cents just to see him train."

Headliners in Detroit or Chicago were happy to get a six-round undercard fight at the Garden. Sometimes the prelim boys went on to become stars. Ray Arcel tells of walking into the Garden on a whim in the '70s and being struck by a skinny Panamanian kid with smoldering black eyes and knockout power in both hands.

Roberto Duran.

Within the ring itself, the story was the same as the Garden's lobby—an endless stream of big names and guys whose names mean nothing today. Pugs who, it was said, got cut on the first sharp in "The Star-Spangled Banner," and warriors like Henry Armstrong, who swallowed his own blood from the 12th round on against Lou Ambers, fearing their 1938 lightweight title bout would be stopped.

For everyone, the Garden was a proving ground where fighters could establish their credentials or secure a hard-won reputation. Where there once was a dashing Cuban featherweight named Kid Chocolate, there came a "Raging Bull" named Jake LaMotta, a flat-nosed heavy hitter who didn't mind trading punishment for punishment. The Garden ring was the stage for characters like Beezy Thomas, a one-time undercard fighter who clambered into the ring before Tony Canzoneri's bouts in a white tie and tails, invoking mystical demons against Canzoneri's opponents. Hurricane Jackson, owner of a peculiar two-handed uppercut, paraded beneath the same pitiless lights as flashy Kid Gavilan, purveyor of the bolo punch. One-time middleweight champion Bobo Olson wore a heart-shaped tattoo honoring "Mother" on his left bicep. And Ernie Terrell, a '60s heavyweight perhaps best remembered for having a sister who replaced Diana Ross in The Supremes, made a stand there.

The ring at the Garden played host to all the greats, too. The 1930s belonged mostly to Armstrong and Canzoneri, who were among the first boxers to win three world championships. But the end of the decade launched Louis on his nonpareil, 11-year sojourn as heavyweight champion, too. Louis was still on top when the '40s arrived. And along with his Bum Of The Month Club came the great dirty matches between stylish Willie Pep and blackhearted slugger Sandy Saddler, a duo poet Philip Levine called "little white perfection, and death in red plaid trunks."

For gate receipts, nothing ever matched the Beau Jack-Bob Montgomery fight at the Garden on March 3, 1944. In a benefit for the War Bond drive, ringside seats sold for $100,000, and proceeds topped $35.8-million.

The curtain finally fell on the Louis era in 1951, when Marciano ended the financially strapped former champion's foray back into boxing by sending him through the Garden ropes on the way to an eighth-round kayo.

"I'll never forget how everyone in the Garden stood up in complete silence—even the Marciano guys—as Louis was counted out," Brenner says.

If Louis epitomized class outside the ring, no one inside matched Sugar Ray Robinson for sheer elan. Robinson turned pro at the Garden in 1940, and lost the middleweight title to Gene Fullmer there in 1957.

It was in 1947 that Robinson set Garden tongues wagging by sending Jimmy Doyle out on a stretcher. When Doyle died three days after the fight, Robinson was called to testify at the de rigueur investigation. A district attorney asked when the then-welterweight champion knew he had Doyle in trouble.

"When he signed to fight," Robinson said.

Crafty Archie Moore, famous for touting pigeon-blood soup and his self-invented arts of Escapeology and Breathology, wasn't a frequent visitor. But in his long-overdue Garden debut, in 1954, Moore dispatched Philadelphia's Harold Johnson, rallying from a knockdown that writer A.J. Leibling compared to a concertmaster being floored by his piano stool.

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(Continued on page 60)

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Boxing's Greatest Ring

(Continued from page 59)

There's an old joke that says, "Leave it to boxing's flim-flam men to take a square and call it a ring." So be advised: When it's said the Garden's 20 x 20-foot ring is now 66 years old, that really refers to the ring's unique brass cornerposts, some of the plywood flooring, and the one-ton iron infrastructure that the canvas and its skirt conceals. The iron frame, an assembled grid of 28 beams and nine more hidden posts, creates a four-foot-high platform for the ring's floor to be laid upon. Each of the 10-foot beams requires two men to lift. What has changed over the years are the ring's fabric accessories: the corner cushions and two-inch floor padding, the canvas, and the bullropes and their velvet sheathes. Another change, only in the last 30 years or so, was the addition of red warning lights atop each cornerpost to signal that rounds are about to close. The solid-brass bell that ends the rounds has taken on almost legendary status. Some say it is original equipment; others say it was salvaged from a sunken ship and replaced the original bell sometime in the '40s.

Eddie Rollins, supervisor of the four-to-12 midnight maintenance shift at the Garden, says it takes 10 of his men about an hour to assemble the ring, and, after the fight, another four hours to wash and wring out a canvas in the Garden rotunda. Because the ring's cornerposts are inset to allow a one-foot apron outside the ropes, Everlast has a special "MSG canvas" designation that fits only the Garden's ring. A new canvas costs about $800 blank, or $1,200 with a printed logo, and can last two years.

Clothesline-thick rope is threaded through metal eyelets in the canvas' edge to attach it to the ring's frame.

"A canvas should be springy enough for a quarter to bounce off the middle of the ring," Rollins says.

Though the ring is now stored between bouts at a lower Manhattan warehouse, the brass bell is kept padlocked inside a Garden storage room locker and broken out last—about one hour before most fights. Rollins says someone is assigned to watch the bell at all times during a fight because, "I don't even want to *think* what would happen if that antique bell turned up gone."

Like the bell, the Garden's ring has never been loaned to another venue, as far as anyone knows. Nor are pro wrestlers allowed to sully its insides. (Another ring is used for their make-believe.) The late, beloved Garden publicist John Condon even refused to allow moviemakers to rent the ring for Anthony Quinn's version of *Requiem For A Heavyweight.*

"It portrayed boxing in a bad image," Condon explained.

Moviemakers weren't the only ones willing to pay to get inside. History is full of fighters who took prodigious pay cuts for a title shot at the Garden, or the career-boosting chance to give a recital for their New York City peers. Current MSG Boxing matchmaker Bobby Goodman says one of his former clients, Bob Foster, wanted a 1968 title bout against Dick Tiger so badly that Foster agreed to guarantee Tiger's $100,000 purse.

"Foster took the fight for a percentage of the gate and got back something like $86,000," Goodman says and laughs. "So it actually *cost* him $14,000 to win the light heavyweight championship of the world."

Though it took cunning to arrange some bouts, the Garden's braintrust faced another challenge once a fight card was set.

Even after Gillette started sponsoring its *Friday Night Fights* on NBC, and the other networks subsequently jumped in, no one got rich on TV money for years. Standard pay for a TV bout in the beginning was only $212, Brenner says, no matter who the fighter was. Thanks only to a fight manager's strike, the pay rose to $4,000 per boxer from 1950-64.

Until closed-circuit and cable-TV came along as lucrative safety nets, only the live gate made a fight card pay off—a fact of business that led to two of boxing's peculiar traditions: the concept of "the promotion" and "da role of da public," as Rocky Graziano might have said.

Because boxers were often moved into big-time rings based on the following they could bring to the gate, many believed their paying fans' outrage could protect them from dishonest judges or scheming insiders. Indeed, the Garden's history is sprinkled with riots and mini-riots following unfavorable decisions. (Brenner recalls one night when a Latin fighter's supporters threw Gladys Gooding's organ from the

second-floor balcony.)

But even in a boxing mecca like New York, worries about the live gate made promoting a necessary, often zany, art, an inspired jumble of nicknames and concocted histories, stunts and double-crosses, old standbys and spur-of-the moment inventions used to push fights even at a place as storied as Madison Square Garden. Rudd, perhaps the best drumbeater of them all, implored America to come forward with a "punching machine" before the Garden's 1977 Earnie Shavers-Ali fight to prove his assertion that the force of one of Shavers' punches equaled a car falling off a four-story building.

Generally, the only discernible rule was, "Why be honest when you can exaggerate?" And boxing's jargon became inflamed. A guy was never just knocked out—he was deposited horizontally, stiffed, separated from his senses, administered the quietus, and dealt the doleful decimal or the fatal 10. Negotiations were won by "layin' the convincer" on a guy, or "producin' the perfect squelch." Punchers didn't just hit hard—they were murderous, devastating, homicidal! And guys with glass jaws had "somnolent possibilities." But nothing was worse than a bum or a tomato can.

Sometimes, fighters who didn't own a title were given one. Rudd once billed one Jose Muniz as "the Portuguese heavyweight champion," though, for all Rudd knew, "he coulda been a Flamenco dancer out of some eastside bistro." And what was any fighter without a nickname? Before there was ever a "Smokin' " Joe Frazier or "Boom Boom" Mancini at the Garden, there was "The Brown Bomber," "Two Ton" Tony Galento, and Primo Carnera, Italy's "Ambling Alp." Busy fighters were dubbed "Hurricane" or "The Human Windmill," like the great Harry Greb, who had three title fights in the Garden ring.

Ethnicity and race always played big roles in promotions, too. Before Gerry Cooney was hurried along to sop up Caucasians' dollar bills, New York businessman Gene Schoor actually advertised for a Great White Hope in *The New York Times* classifieds, promising a $150,000 salary that netted Big Jim Beattie, a feckless Minnesota farm boy who stood 6'9", scaled 240 pounds, and spent his 16th summer fighting all comers for a traveling carnival show. In the '60s, Beattie fought five times on Garden undercards before his New York boxing license was revoked.

Promoters aren't above retreading proven gimmicks. Common are the Fading Legend vs. the Rising Hope; the Spy in Training Camp; and the Turncoat Manager who works against his former boxer.

As Brenner once said: "Boxing is working with people, and the problem with people is, they're always up to something."

Goodman remembers taking a phone call for his client, Foster, during training for a January 23, 1969, title fight at the Garden against Frankie DePaula, and being stunned when the voice said: "Hey Bobby, this is Frankie DePaula. May I speak to Foster?"

"Initially, I said, 'I don't know, I'll see,' " Goodman recalls. "But as I put the phone on hold, I'm thinkin', *Heeeyyy, this may be good! Maybe it'll make some good copy, headlines.* So Foster gets on the phone, closes the door to talk. And he come out of the room shaking his head. He says, 'I'm gonna kill that little sonovabitch! I'm gonna tear his head off!'

"So I said, 'Bobby, Bobby! What the hell'd he say?' And Bobby says, 'He said he was gonna kick my black ass!' this and that. So I called up Condon, who was workin' the DePaula camp, and I says, 'Geez, John, if you're gonna pull a stunt like that, you gotta tell me! My guy's ready to tear the walls apart.' John says, 'I swear, I didn't do it! I swear.'

"So the night of the fight I'm standing outside the dressing room in the Garden, and who's just coming in but Frankie. He calls me over—'Bobby. Bobby'—and I says, 'Yeah Frankie, yeah.' He says, 'Hey Bob, will ya please tell Foster I didn't make that call! It was somebody else jerkin' around. Will you tell him? Bobby, will you tell him?'

"So I said, 'Aw, don't worry about it, Frankie. I'll tell him.' "

"Well, of course, I never did," Goodman says and laughs, smiling broadly. "Foster came out, knocked Frankie down three times in the first round, and they stopped the fight!"

As the matchmaker hired in 1986 to resuscitate Madison Square Garden boxing, Goodman faces an uphill battle. Many of the Garden's regularly scheduled fights fill air-time for its MSG cable network. Though Goodman has frequently landed bouts on network TV, the networks won't black out New York City, submarining the Garden's live gate.

But Goodman, who started attending fights more than 40 years ago, when his father Murray was the Garden's publicist, says, "I prefer to never say never, even when it comes to another Frazier-Ali."

Some days, Goodman says, he sits in his office making top-10 lists of "nostalgic things, silly things"—personal inventories of how rich New York's fight scene was. But he knows that when the spotlight settles on the Garden's ring, one thing never changes.

"There's still nothing like hearing that bell ring out and the ring announcer say, 'Ladies and gentlemen, for the championship of the world!' " Goodman says. "It still gives me the goosebumps, to this day." ■

Johnette Howard is a sportswriter for the Detroit Free Press. This story first appeared in The National.

Kelley-Dorsey

(Continued from page 39)

KELLEY ON THE CROWD

While I appreciate the ringsiders cheering me on, I didn't draw a whole lot of strength from them. I could hear just a couple of voices, like [WBC welterweight champion] Buddy McGirt shouting for me, and my friend, [junior lightweight contender] Reggie Tuur. But, basically, I used myself as a source of energy.

I fight with an anger that's ridiculous. And I'm at my angriest when I'm in the ring. But I draw a positive force from it. That's good because I fight on the road often—in Belgium or Holland—where I'm not the hometown favorite.

So while the crowd at The Paramount was supportive, I'm more of a self-starter when it comes to gearing up for my fights.

DORSEY ON RESPECT

I respected Kelley before the fight, and I knew he was going to give me a strong battle. But during the fight I began to lose respect for him. He had no power. He's built up as a fighter with power, but he really doesn't have that much.

Even after the fight, I pretty much had no respect for him. There was a moment in the 11th round when I got him on the ropes near a corner, and I must've taken 10 or 20 shots at him.

(Continued on page 63)

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Kelley-Dorsey

(Continued from page 61)

As I banged away, I could see some wonderment in his facial expression. He was wondering how he was going to deal with what was happening. And then I saw some quit in his face.

I'll give him this: He didn't quit. But as a fighter, I don't think he's as good as his people would like you to think.

KELLEY ON HEART

I tried awfully hard to intimidate him in this fight, but like me, he has a background in martial arts. Intimidation doesn't work against guys like us. I had to out-tough him.

I'm my own worst enemy, though. I'm like a kamikaze. In the ring, if I don't die, it doesn't count. It's always a fight to the death. And I was going to just keep fighting until I dropped.

As the fight wore on, I could sense Dorsey backing down mentally, though his heart kept going. But I'm a fighter on a mission. To get a world title. To be recognized as a great fighter. There was no way I was going to give in at any point.

There were times when I was frustrated, as Dorsey said. Late in the fight, he hit me with two clean shots, and I was so mad at myself for having let him do that, that I let out a scream. That got my adrenaline pumping again, and from that point on I was bent on destroying him even more.

DORSEY ON MENTAL CONDITIONING

To fight a fight like we did, both of us needed to have incredible mental strength. Kelley was in there fighting away, but there was no quit in me, either.

I've always been told that I was mentally tough, even as a little kid. A friend of mine, Larry Latimer, still recalls that when we were kids, I had a tremendous amount of drive and determination. He found that out one day when we were in a fight.

He was 16 at the time, and I was 12. Larry got me on the ground, and no matter what he tried, he couldn't get me to give. He stuffed dirt in my mouth, stuffed some grass in there, too. And when that didn't work, he squeezed me by the throat. But no matter how much of a bully he tried to be, he just couldn't get me to give.

(Continued on page 64)

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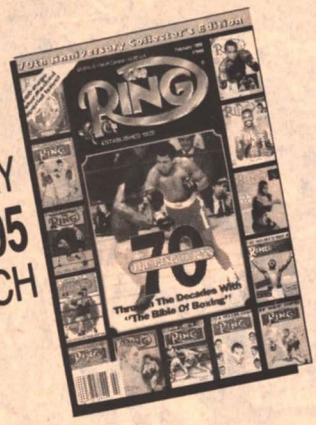

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Kelley-Dorsey

(Continued from page 63)

Same with Kelley. He hit me with some good shots, but I refused to be stopped.

KELLEY ON FOCUS

Want to know something? I didn't even realize I was in the fight until the second round. It was like I was physically there, but I left my soul in the dressing room. And it didn't meet up with my body until the second round.

After that, I concentrated on the fight. But every so often, I would be in and out of it. In round four, I had what I call a dry spot. I just didn't know how I was going to take Troy. Should I pace myself? Should I go all out? For a minute, I didn't even know what punch to throw next. But then I snapped out of it. I started to think about my three daughters and my wife, Valerie. I felt I would let them down if I lost. They rely on me, and in boxing you usually only get one chance at a title shot. So I wasn't about to blow it. You might say that in a way, I drew strength from my fear of losing, and soon after I was back into the fight, and things began to flow again.

DORSEY ON STAMINA

I knew stamina would be important because Kelley didn't get to be where he is without being tough. So what I did to improve my stamina was go longer on my stationary bike than usual. Instead of putting it in 12th gear and standing up, and pumping for a few minutes, I slipped it into ninth gear and road the bike for 20 minutes a day. That, I felt, gave me a much more effective workout than riding for less time in a higher gear.

I also sparred more than usual. I was doing six four-minute rounds every night, 20 minutes of jumping rope, 25 regular pushups, plus 25 fingertip pushups. And during all sparring sessions, I concentrated on being busier with my combinations because I wanted to be on him at all times. I'd say I boosted my training by 25 percent. That's why I stayed with him for 12 rounds.

KELLEY ON TRAINING

To begin with, I'd fought 18 days before the fight with Dorsey, so it wasn't like I had to train heavily. And anyway, I don't train like an ordinary fighter. My training is new wave.

I train three times a week, twice a day. And those days I'm not training, I'm getting stronger, because rest is very important to gaining strength. My physical instructor, Seth Seidman, has me work out for 10 three-minute rounds on the Versa Climber and Nordic Track, as well as step machines. That's all instead of long-distance running. Also, I don't spar anywhere near what other fighters do. Too much sparring can burn out a career. For this fight, I never sparred anywhere near 12 rounds.

As always, [trainer] Phil Borgia prepared me for anything that might happen. For instance, I spar a round or two with just one hand. And that's good, because I once broke my hand in a fight, but I was able to get through it okay by fighting one-handed.

Even in sparring sessions, we treat it like it's a fight. We practice holding, spinning, and even deal with the eventuality of a knockdown. I know to always stay down until the count of eight to allow the brain's equilibrium to balance out. But, above all, I work on defense. Which is why Dorsey missed me so many times.

DORSEY ON THE FUTURE

I still have my sights fixed on getting my world title back. And even though Kelley was given the win, I did give a super exciting performance. I was certainly a lot better against Kelley than I was in my fight against Medina last August. I hit the wall in that fight. But since then, I've done some research on diet, vitamins, and minerals. And, as you saw, there was no holding me back against Kelley. Anyone who questioned my ability of late can't question it now. For now, I'll just head back to the gym and train for a 10-round fight sometime later in the spring. Then I'll resume my hunt for a world title.

KELLEY ON THE FUTURE

Things have broken clean for me. [Former top-rated WBC featherweight contender] Ricardo Cepeda got kayoed, and that helps me a lot. Now I'll probably be rated number-one by the WBC and WBA, and I hope the IBF soon does the same.

I know I'll be a champion some day. That's why I was willing to put my ranking and my [WBC Continental-Americas] title belt on the line against Dorsey. I want to prove to everyone that I'm the best featherweight around. You'll see. ■

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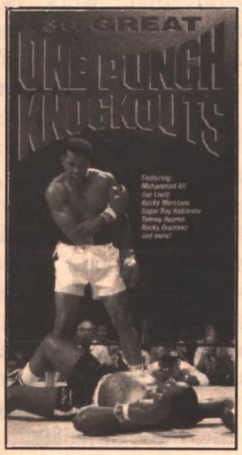

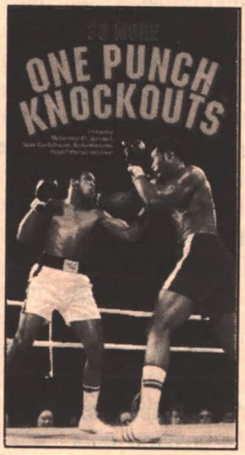

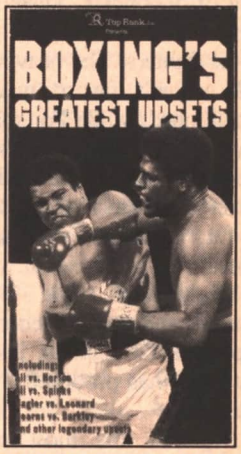

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Fat Fighters

(Continued from page 21)

Among current contenders, Big George Foreman has been teased as much for his waistline as for his selection of opponents. These are not, however, classic examples of successful obese fighters. The heavyweights of the '80s weren't fat so much as poorly conditioned, while Foreman simply enjoys eating too much to stave off middle-age spread. The truly overweight boxer is a heavyweight who by nature is fat, a fighter who appears better suited for professional wrestling than boxing. And while it may seem strange, the sweet science has featured top-notch fat fighters, just as surely as the NBA has produced 5'7" basketball players.

Arguably the most popular obese fighter of all-time never existed. Humphrey Pennyworth was the archrival of cartoon strip heavyweight champion Joe Palooka. The 300-pounder's bouts with Palooka captured the attention of millions of newspaper readers, as did his trademark polka-dot trunks and cap.

In the 1970s, fistania produced a case of life imitating art. Oklahoma ballyhoo artist Pat O'Grady, who would later steer his son Sean to a lightweight title, gave the world Claude "Humphrey" McBride.

When he hooked up with O'Grady in 1970, McBride was a former divinity student. Under O'Grady's tutelage, he adopted the image of the cartoon character Pennyworth, complete with cap and shorts and fighting name Humphrey.

McBride was matched with the usual assortment of stiffs. In June 1971, in Oklahoma City, he made history of sorts when, at a weight of 340 pounds, he knocked out 360-pound Jimmy Black in three rounds. The bout was listed in the *Guinness Book Of World Records* as having the greatest "tonnage" in a fight.

Ever the master manipulator, O'Grady proclaimed the creation of a class for boxers weighing more than 240 pounds—the super heavyweight division. In September 1972, he matched his man with a faded Buster Mathis for the mythical crown. Weighing in at a remarkably svelte 260, McBride was knocked out in three rounds.

According to O'Grady, Mathis had psyched out McBride at a prefight press conference by boasting that he had once knocked out a horse. When McBride told this to his manager immediately after the bout, O'Grady shot back, "Yeah, and now he's knocked out a big dumb elephant."

In producing fat fighters, Oklahoma has nothing on South Africa. During the mid-1970s, the national heavyweight crown was briefly held by Mike "The Tank" Schutte, a short-armed, stubby-legged mauler who toed in around 300 pounds. While at best never more than a fringe contender, the colorful Schutte lost to such name fighters as Duane Bobick, Gerrie Coetzee, and Chuck Wepner, and was briefly considered as an opponent for Muhammad Ali.

Schutte was succeeded as South Africa's fattest fighter by the enormous, 280-pound Jimmy Abbott, a popular attraction of the early-'80s. Like Schutte, Abbott was not quite world class, his finest moment being a one-round knockout of washed up former contender Kallie Knoetze in 1980.

While the aforementioned fighters might have been exciting to watch—or

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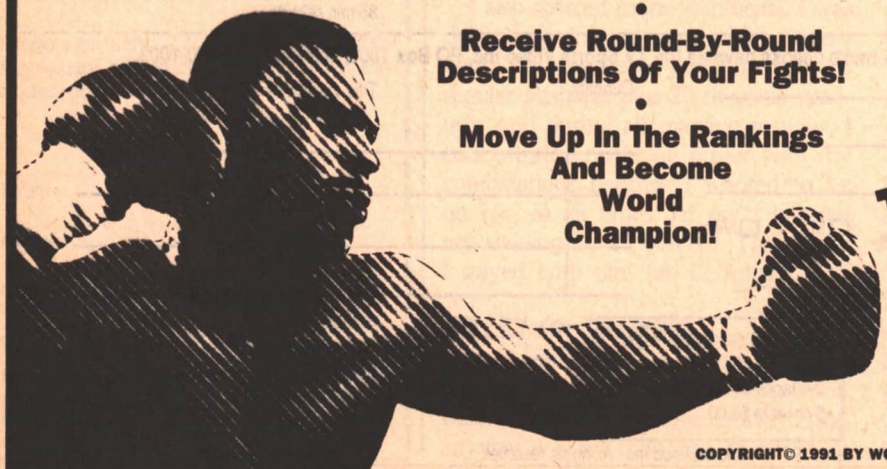

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at the least comical (in August 1976, Schutte was disqualified for *kicking* Coetzee)—they were hardly top-caliber.

To find the first world-class obese fighter, you have to travel back to San Francisco, the years 1914-1918. It was there that one Eugene Walcott, born Christmas Day 1893, made a name for himself as Willie Meehan.

Earliest records show the 5'9" Meehan starting his career in 1909. He began as a bantamweight, and would eventually fight between 220-240 pounds.

After beating the usual assortment of non-entities, Meehan gained a national reputation. From 1914 to 1918, he drew or fought no-decisions against such top-notchers as Andre Anderson, Billy Miske, and future world champions Jack Dillon and Harry Greb. It was his five-bout series with soon-to-be heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey, however, that put Meehan into the history books.

The first bout took place in March 1917, with sailor boy Meehan handing "The Manassa Mauler" a four-round boxing lesson. In the return four months later, Dempsey exhibited his explosive two-handed style and punched out a decision victory. It would be his first and only series win. Two matches later in the year ended in draws. Their final bout was held in 1918, with Meehan taking another four-round decision.

Though his build suggested a brawler, Meehan was anything but. Nimble and fast of fist, he threw slapping punches that, though lacking power, scored points and frustrated his foes. He would pivot from one direction to another and shoot punches from every angle, while himself able to take an excellent punch, particularly in his ample midsection.

Meehan was a long evening for any contender. As Dempsey would state years after their rivalry, "Willie kept coming into me no matter how hard and often I hit him. There was no way to stop him. Fighting him gave me a feeling of complete frustration. No other opponent ever made me feel so completely helpless."

Meehan serves as the prototype of obese heavyweights who have reached the top class. As a rule, such fighters move well and flash fast hands, yet for all their appearance, lack punching power. In addition, they usually possess a high degree of boxing skill. As is generally the case with particularly muscular boxers, added size doesn't seem to enhance power. If anything, extra bulk prevents fighters from gaining proper leverage, thus inhibiting power.

The most notable exception rolled onto the heavyweight scene in the late-'20s. New Jersey's "Two Ton" Tony Galento bore Meehan a great physical resemblance. In fighting style, however, they were opposites.

With a wise-guy attitude and a cigar hanging from his clenched teeth, Galento, 5'9½" and, in his prime, 230-235 pounds, seemed more barroom brawler than professional pugilist. (In 1954, Hollywood couldn't resist casting him as a street-smart enforcer in film classic *On The Waterfront*.)

Galento had little speed or finesse; his method of blocking a punch was to use his face. He was also among the dirtiest fighters of his era. (His foul-filled September 1939 beating of the highly rated Lou Nova effectively ended Nova's title hopes.) Yet Two-Ton Tony could do the one thing most obese fighters can't—punch with power. In fact, Galento's left hook ranks with the most dangerous in the history of the sport. In his June 1939 title bout with Joe Louis, a sweeping left put the titleholder on the deck in the third round.

"I wanted to hit him all over," Galento said after being stopped in round four. "You win the fight, what can they do to you then? I would have been the champ if they'd let me alone." (Translation: I would have won if I thumbed, hit low, butted, and used every other dirty trick in the book.)

Galento retired in 1943, but that didn't mean he stopped fighting. In publicity stunts, he wrestled a Russian bear, and engaged in a free-for-all with an octopus in the window of a Seattle seafood restaurant. Motion picture acting, professional wrestling—Galento tried it all. No doubt the world has been a quieter place since his death in July 1979.

Buster Mathis was much more Meehan than Galento. At the 1964 Olympic Trials, the 6'3", 300-pound Mathis handily outpointed perpetual motion machine Joe Frazier. It was a repeat of an earlier, equally easy win.

A thumb injury kept Mathis from fulfilling his role as America's heavyweight representative at the Tokyo Games. (Frazier went on to win the gold medal.) He turned pro the following year, rolling up an impressive record and being hailed as one of the brightest prospects in the division. He also dropped a considerable amount of weight, at one point scaling in the 220s. But Mathis was a big man by nature, and by the latter stages of his career, he returned to the sumo wrestler look.

Mathis possessed little punching power, but had extremely fast hands, excellent movement, and solid boxing skills. While it would have been to his benefit to maul and bully his opponents, he was very weak on the inside. He preferred to keep the fight at long range, where his boxing, rather than his bulk, was the dominant factor.

TV analyst and former manager-trainer Gil Clancy describes Mathis as "definitely in the top five when he was fighting."

"It's like going to a wedding and seeing a big fat guy there, and he turns out to be the best dancer in the place," said Clancy, who handled his own athletically blessed big man, Roosevelt Eddy.

Mathis danced his way to 23 straight wins before being matched with amateur rival Frazier in March 1968. Their bout was contested for the vacant New York State portion of the heavyweight championship. Over the first three rounds, the 243-pound Mathis outboxed Frazier with ease. As the fight progressed, however, Frazier continued with the non-stop pressure that became his signature. Much to his own undoing, Mathis stopped boxing at long ranch and fought on the inside. He was stopped in the 11th round.

Mathis rebounded by defeating a number of medium-level opponents. In February 1969, he registered one of the best wins of his career, conducting a 12-round boxing clinic against durable Canadian champion George Chuvalo. Again he was a force in the division. But he couldn't maintain his momentum, and lost decisions to Jerry Quarry and Muhammad Ali.

Mathis was clearly finished as a contender. His last victory was the knockout over fellow fat boy McBride. In his next bout, he was stopped in two rounds by comer Ron Lyle.

Now 47, Mathis lives in his adopted state of Michigan. Recent reports have listed him at close to 400 pounds. He coaches his son, Buster Mathis Jr., who is an accomplished amateur heavyweight. Like father, like son? Sorry, Junior is 6-feet and weighs only 210 pounds.

The most recent fat fighter to be-

(Continued on page 70)

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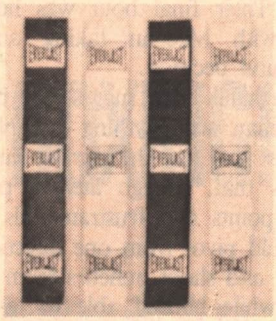

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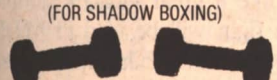

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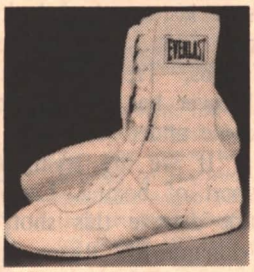

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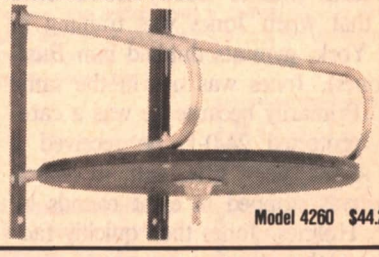

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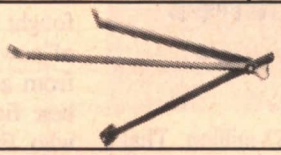

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Fat Fighters

(Continued from page 67)

come a factor was Denver's Leroy Jones, who stood 6'5" and weighed in the vicinity of 260 pounds. True to tradition, Jones was a stylish boxer with little power. While physical similarities brought inevitable comparisons to Mathis (trainer Bobby Lewis once said that when Jones was training in New York, gymrats dubbed him *Buster* Jones), Jones was not in the same class. Primarily because he was a carefully protected 24-0-1, he received a shot at the WBC title, and, in March 1980, was stopped in eight rounds by Larry Holmes. Jones then quickly faded from the scene.

Today, fat heavyweights are out of style, surely a backlash against the recent Blob Brigade of Witherspoon, Tubbs, and Page. Former Italian amateur star Biagio Chianese scales about 270, but he has little company. A sign of the times came earlier this year when Joe Hipp weighed 225 for a 10-round win against Jesse Shelby. Last October, Hipp was a fleshy 243 in a loss to Bert Cooper.

It's been said "it's not over till the fat lady sings." In the sweet science, it's not over till the fat man dances. One of these days, he just might dance all the way to the world title. ■

Alan Shelton is a freelance writer based in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Larry Holmes

(Continued from page 45)

What was left was $7-million. That's about $4-million more than he made for fighting Tyson.

So the rich get richer, and boxing fans are asked to fork over $35.95 to add to the pot. Holyfield-Holmes could very well be a blowout, something boxing hardly needs right now.

"I think that every heavyweight champion looks to make the most money against the opponent who offers as little opposition as possible," said Greenburg. "Over the last 15 years, I've realized that any major event is good for boxing. This qualifies as a major event."

What's of more importance to boxing fans is whether or not Holmes-Holyfield qualifies as a fight at all.

"On a given night, I think a great athlete can put out a great performance," said Kathy Duva, a publicist for Main Events. "Larry Holmes earned his shot in a way that even George Foreman didn't. Larry Holmes is the only guy who beat a rated contender."

Holyfield, who stopped top-10 contenders Michael Dokes and Alex Stewart before winning the title, has been the target of much criticism during his tenure as champion. In a 20-month reign, he has decisioned Foreman and rallied from an early knockdown to stop last-minute substitute Bert Cooper. Not since the reigns of Tony Tubbs, Trevor Berbick, and Mike Weaver has the sport's greatest prize come under such siege.

"If we are trying to uphold the sport of boxing, Larry Holmes does not deserve this shot," said Murad Muhammad, Razor Ruddock's promoter. "We have fighters who have fought hard to get to the number one, two, and three spots. Evander Holyfield has not taken on all comers."

In a matchup the public demanded, Holyfield signed to fight Tyson, the mandatory challenger and the fiercest heavyweight alive. But that was before Tyson's rape conviction—and before the media lost its patience with Holyfield.

"We made the fight everyone wanted," said Kathy Duva. "What happened [to Tyson] wasn't our fault. Evander wants to silence his critics, and his way of doing it is to fight everyone. If the WBC made Riddick Bowe the mandatory, we would have fought Riddick Bowe. Larry came out of nowhere to beat Mercer. Ultimately, from a business standpoint, it was the best fight for Evander. The order of who Evander fights is based on economics. Unfortunately, he can't fight *everyone* next."

Things could actually get worse. Holmes could win, and boxing would have to explain away a 42-year-old heavyweight champion. Against Tyson, Holmes was an 8-1 underdog. Against Holyfield, he is a 6-1 underdog. A Holmes victory is not as farfetched as it sounds. Had the fight taken place when the challenger was in his prime, *Holmes* would have been the 6-1 choice.

"I think Larry was in better shape for Mercer than he was for the Tyson fight, and maybe even the two Michael Spinks fights," said Greenburg. "If the Larry Holmes that fought Ray Mercer gets in the ring against Holyfield, we could have a tussle on our hands."

And no one's quite sure if that's good or bad. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

After her phone rang, Steele completed the team by contacting Futch. (They had previously co-managed a promising middleweight named Lamar Thompson, who was 6-0 when, in 1988, he drowned in an accident at Lake Mead.) The legendary trainer was already working with Virgil Hill, Riddick Bowe, Mike McCallum, and other world-class fighters. That he agreed to welcome Sample aboard spoke glowingly of the youngster's potential.

"I saw the cleverness, and a clever southpaw is a hard customer to deal with, as witnessed by Pernell Whitaker," Futch said.

Sample has been compared to Whitaker for as long as he can remember, which is fine by him; "Sweet Pea" and Meldrick Taylor are his boxing idols. Both Sample and Whitaker are southpaws who rely on quickness and mobility. Both can box well enough to not only dominate opponents, but embarrass them as well. And until Whitaker recently moved up in weight, both were lightweights.

The similarities are so striking that when Whitaker signs for a fight, Sample is invariably asked to spar with the opponent. Both Jorge Paez and Azumah Nelson employed the lightweight before their unsuccessful challenges of Whitaker.

"A lot of my moves I've borrowed from him," Sample says. "[Lightweight] Jeff Mayweather lives across the street, and the two of us and [welterweight] Skipper Kelp hang out together. We watch a lot of boxing and use what we see."

Until Sample defeats a top-10 contender, he'll continue to be labeled a Whitaker clone. Futch anticipates that the lightweight will develop his own identity later this year, when he steps up his class of opposition. NABF champion Frankie Mitchell has been targeted as a breakthrough opponent.

Sounds like a great idea to Sample. Maybe the fight will be held in Mitchell's hometown of Philadelphia. And maybe a scout from the Eagles will be seated ringside. And maybe . . . ■

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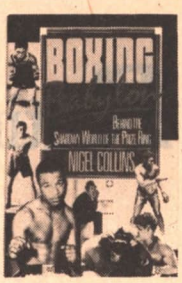

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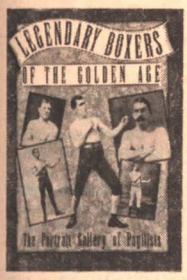

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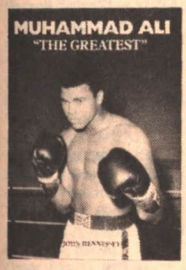

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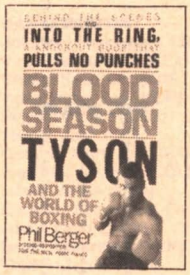

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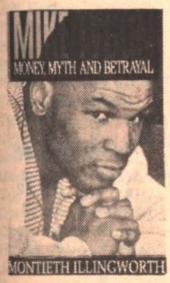

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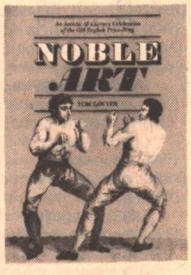

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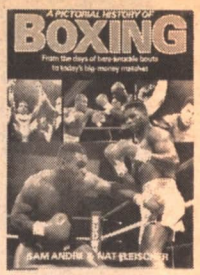

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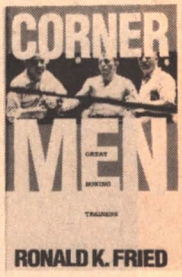

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Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of February

WBA as of January

IBF as of March

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Mike Tyson (USA)	1	1	-
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	2	6	5
Riddick Bowe (USA)	3	5	3
Lennox Lewis (GB)	4	3	4
Michael Moorer (USA)	5	8	6
George Foreman (USA)	6	4	1
Larry Holmes (USA)	7	-	8
Tony Tucker (USA)	8	11	11
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	9	7	7
Bert Cooper (USA)	10	9	12
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	2	2
Phil Jackson (USA)	11	10	-
Ray Mercer (USA)	12	-	9
Carl Williams (USA)	14	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	4	3
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	3	2
Derek Angol (GB)	3	2	5
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	4	7	6
Akim Tafer (FRA)	5	9	10
Dennis Andries (GB)	6	5	12
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	7	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	8	8	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	9	1	1
Nate Miller (USA)	10	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	6	7
Bashiru Ali (NIG)	17	10	-
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Mike Hunter (USA)	-	12	4
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	-	-	8
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	19	-	9

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	1	2	3
Frank Tate (USA)	2	1	1
David Vedder (USA)	3	-	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	4	3	2
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	5	4	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	6	-	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	7	-	-
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	8	7	4
Crawford Ashley (GB)	9	10	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	10	-	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	C	-
Saul Montana (MEX)	-	5	5
Andrew Maynard (USA)	12	6	12
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	16	8	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	28	9	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	6
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	-	7
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	13	-	8
Booker Word (USA)	15	-	9
Henry Maske (GER)	11	11	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	2	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	3	1
Nigel Benn (GB)	3	4	-
James Cook (GB)	4	1	7
Dan Schommer (USA)	5	-	-
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	6	8	10
Lindell Holmes (USA)	7	6	4
Ron Essett (USA)	8	5	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	9	-	-
Henry Wharton (GB)	10	-	11
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Frank Liles (USA)	17	7	-
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	-	9	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	-	10	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	11	-	3
John Jarvis (USA)	-	-	5
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	-	-	6
Nelson Alves (GER)	23	-	8
Tim Littles (USA)	-	-	9

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	3	9
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	4	4
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	5	2
Reggie Johnson (USA)	4	2	1
Herol Graham (GB)	5	-	-
Steve Collins (USA)	6	1	3
Willie Monroe (USA)	7	-	-
Roy Jones (USA)	8	-	8
Ron Collins (USA)	9	-	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	10	-	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	6	-
Ki Yun Song (KOR)	25	7	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	14	8	-
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	-	9	-
Percy Harris (USA)	22	10	7
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	-	-	5
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	16	-	6
Dave Tiberi (USA)	18	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	1	1	-
Simon Brown (USA)	2	5	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	2	7
Wally Swift (GB)	4	-	3
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	-	-
Jean Claude Fontana (FRA)	6	12	-
Carl Daniels (USA)	7	-	4
Jorge Castro (ARG)	8	6	6
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	9	7	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	10	4	1
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Roy Jones (USA)	-	3	-
Kitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	21	8	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	9	10
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	10	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Vincent Pettway (USA)	11	-	2
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	15	-	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	13	-	8
Pat Lawlor (USA)	19	11	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	5	12
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	2	9	1
Santos Cardona (PR)	3	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	4	4	10
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	5	3	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	6	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	7	6	-
David Gonzalez (USA)	8	-	9
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	9	10	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	10	8	11
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	1	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	-	2	-
Yori Campas (MEX)	18	7	5
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	4
Kevin Pompey (USA)	27	-	6
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	28	-	7
Buck Smith (USA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	1	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	2	2	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	3	3	5
Terrence Ali (USA)	4	5	2
Rodney Moore (USA)	5	4	4

Loreto Garza (USA)	6	9	-
Greg Haugen (USA)	7	-	-
Ike Quartey (GHA)	8	-	9
Harold Brazier (USA)	9	-	10
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	10	-	-
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Pyung Sup Kim (KOR)	29	6	-
Guillermo Mosquera (COL)	-	7	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	20	8	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	25	10	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	C
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	-	1
Charles Murray (USA)	13	-	3
Roger Mayweather (USA)	15	-	6
Oba Carr (USA)	19	-	7
Andy Holligan (GB)	12	-	8

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	C	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	1	2	5
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	10	-
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	8	7
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	4	1	-
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	6	-	12
Jorge Paez (MEX)	7	6	4
Joey Gamache (USA)	8	3	-
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	9	-	9
Antonio Renzo (ITA)	10	-	11
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	4	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	5	-
Poli Diaz (SPA)	14	7	-
Omar Flores (MEX)	15	9	-
Tracy Spann (USA)	13	11	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	17	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	22	-	6
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	11	-	8
Jimmy Paul (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	7	8
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	1	-
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	3	4	9
Pierre Lorcy (FRA)	4	2	-
Eugene Speed (USA)	5	5	-
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	6	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	7	-	2
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	8	-	-
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	9	-	-
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	10	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	19	6	-
Daniel Londas (FRA)	13	8	-
Omar Catari (VEN)	-	9	-
Harold Warren (VEN)	25	10	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	3	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	1
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	16	-	3
Bernard Taylor (USA)	11	-	4
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	5
Francisco Valdez (MEX)	-	-	6
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	7
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	1	5	8
Kevin Kelley (USA)	2	1	3
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	7	-
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	4	-	-
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	5	-	-
Jose Ramos (DR)	6	-	-
James Leija (USA)	7	10	4
Troy Dorsey (USA)	8	-	9
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	9	8	11
Tom Johnson (USA)	10	2	2
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	3	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	4	-
Louie Espinoza (PHIL)	18	6	5
Colin McMillan (GB)	11	9	10
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	1
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	6
Jemal Hinton (USA)	-	-	7

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	1
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	-	2
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	2	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	4	3	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	5	-	6
Luis Mendoza (COL)	6	4	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	8	-	3
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	9	6	-
Otilio Gallegos (MEX)	10	-	-
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	C	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	5	7
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	21	7	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	8	8
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	28	9	-
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	-	10	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	15	11	4
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	5
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	9
Nurhuda (INDO)	-	-	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	-	-
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	1	-	6
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	3	3	-
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	4	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	5	1	5
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	6	-	9
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	7	-	1
Junior Jones (USA)	8	2	2
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	9	4	-
Javier Leon (MEX)	10	11	4
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	C	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	-	5	-
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	13	6	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	-	7	-
Luis Malave (VEN)	-	8	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	22	9	-
Harold Mestre (COL)	-	10	11
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	3
Francisco Arroyo (PAN)	-	-	7
Clarence Adams (USA)	12	12	8
Ray Minus (BAH)	-	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	1	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	2	2	-
Luis Bueno (MEX)	3	-	3
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	4	1	11
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	5	10	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	6	11	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	7	6	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	8	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	9	4	9
Noel Cogollo (COL)	10	-	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	24	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	-	5	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	-	7	1
Jing Gil Byun (KOR)	11	8	-
Guillermo Salcedo (COL)	-	9	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	12	-	2
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	18	-	5
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	6
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	13	12	7
Ole Kiatwonway (USA)	-	-	8
Dan Nietes (PHIL)	25	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	2
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	3	4	7
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	4	6	-
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	5	9	-
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	6	-	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	7	12	5
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	16	1	6
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	2	1
David Griman (VEN)	-	3	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	5	9
Julio Gudino (PAN)	-	7	-
Scotty Olson (USA)	14	8	3
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	15	10	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Pichit Sitbangphachan (THAI)	-	-	4
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	8
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	8	5
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	3	-	3
Domingo Sosa (DR)	4	-	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	5	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	6	-	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	7	5	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	8	-	-
Jorge Blanco (COL)	9	11	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	10	3	6
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Myung Woo Yuh (JAP)	-	1	-
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	14	2	-
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	13	6	1
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	16	7	-
Kwan Soo Oh (KOR)	-	9	-
Noel Tunacao (PHIL)	-	10	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	-	-	2
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Raul Rios (MEX)	12	-	7
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	8
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	9
Mario Sajulan (PHIL)	-	-	10

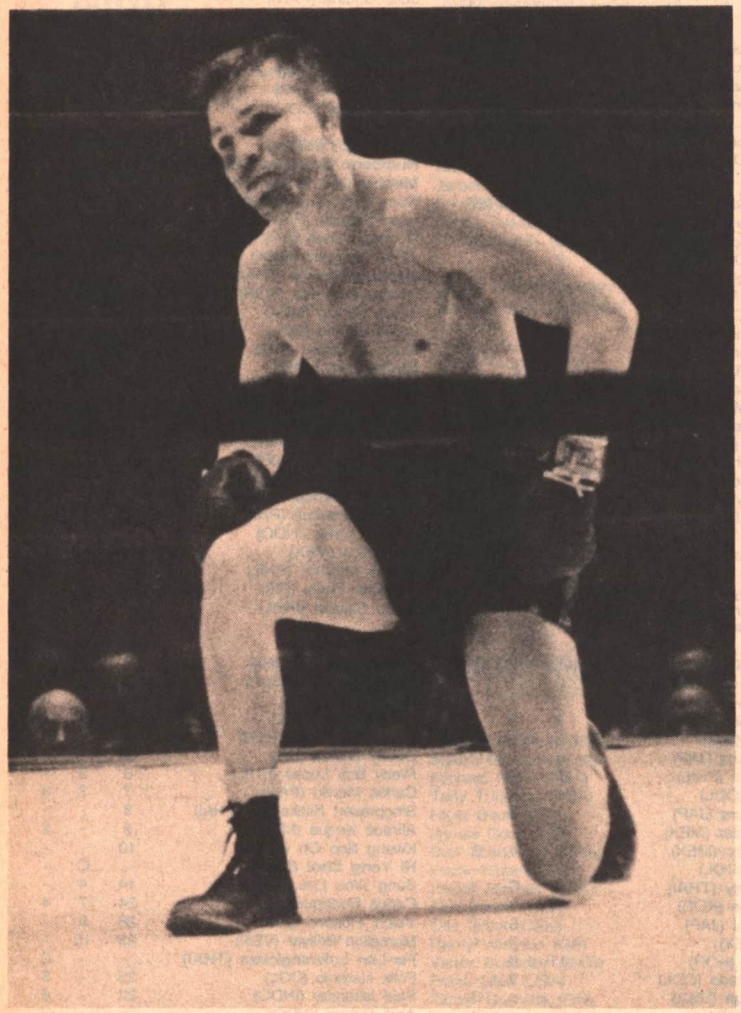
STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	1	2	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	2	5	8
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	8	1
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	4	1	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	5	11	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	6	6	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	7	3	3
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	8	-	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	9	-	2
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	10	-	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	14	4	-
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	24	7	4
Yuichi Hosono (JAP)	28	9	-
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	23	10	-
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Naranjo (COL)	25	-	5
Said Iskandar (INDO)	22	-	6
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	7
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	19	12	9
Husni Ray (INDO)	27	-	10

CLASSIC

AMBERS' LAST STAND

Former Lightweight King, Stopped by Jenkins, Hangs Up Gloves—Gives Best Exhibition Of His Career Before Downfall

From The Ring, May 1941



Former lightweight champion Lou Ambers put forth extra effort, but he couldn't overcome the punching power of Lew Jenkins, who finished him in seven rounds at Madison Square Garden.

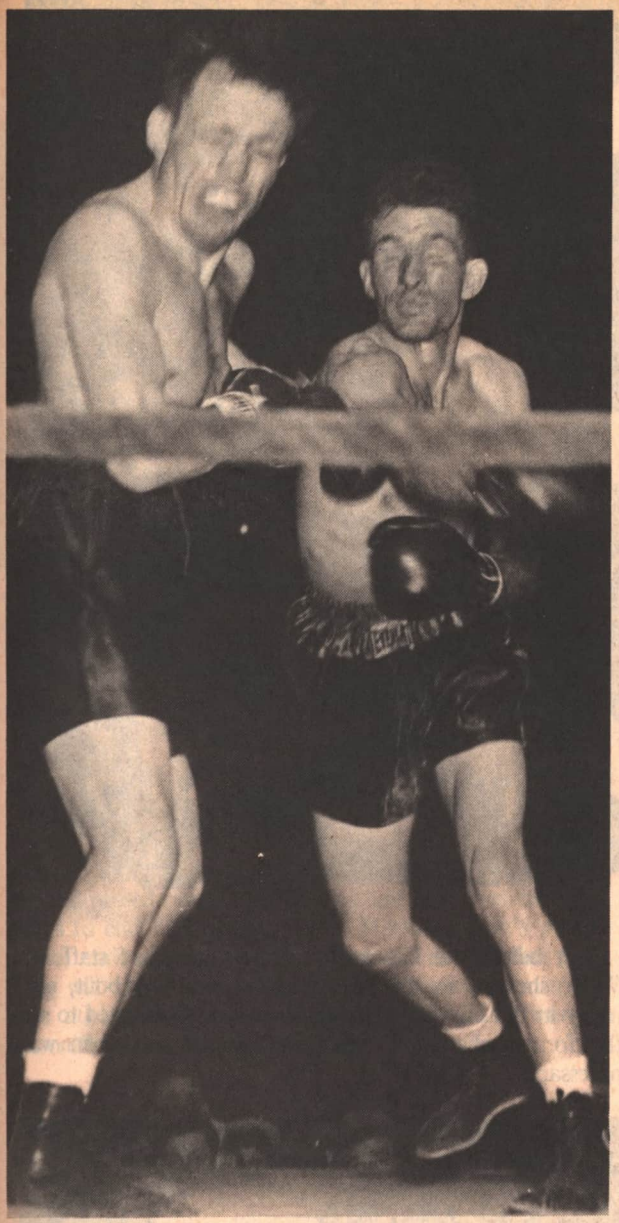
By Nat Fleischer

The second version of "The Kid's' Last Fight" was enacted before a huge gathering in the historic Madison Square Garden arena on the night of February 28, when Lew Jenkins, world lightweight champion, ended the fighting career of his gallant foe, Lou Ambers, via the knockout route. Herkimer Lou, from whom Jenkins had won the crown, had decided on a comeback, and in an effort to work his way to a welterweight championship match, he faced the Texas cowboy in an over-the-weight contest.

A gathering of 15,402 fans, who paid $46,443 to see the former king face his conqueror in the return engagement, watched the Texas cowboy duplicate his feat of last May, by scoring his second kayo over the New Yorker, this time in seven rounds. And in those seven sessions, the fans were treated to a brand of fighting that only champions can display.

Unmercifully beaten and on the verge of a knockout in the second round, Ambers refused to permit referee Arthur Donovan to halt the bout. He came out for the third with an amazing amount of courage to take the play away from the titleholder, and to turn the tables on him in a manner that brought the crowd to its feet. Bedlam reigned as the Ambers followers cheered him on to what looked like a sure victory.

Without a semblance of defense in the second canto, Ambers not only outmaneuvered his opponent in the third, but crashed many effective punches to body and jaw that had Jenkins reeling. The Texan was forced to miss



Jenkins was the hardest-hitting 135-pounder in the world—even when his eyes were closed. Right hands like this brought an end to the career of the 27-year-old Ambers.

often and to take jabs and uppercuts in a manner that was unbelievable.

Ambers peppered Lew with a stinging left; he worked in close and knocked Jenkins' head back repeatedly with jarring uppercuts; he opened a cut under Lew's right eye; he cut the bridge of the Texan's nose and slashed the champ without getting much in return.

It was a complete reversal of the previous round, when Ambers floundered about the ring, hands dangling at his sides and eyes glassy. Lou had Jenkins so confused that bewilderment was spread all over the Texan's map. He simply couldn't understand the change, no more than could the amazed spectators, who kept up one rapid fire of shouts and applause.

That round was the start of a new lease of life for Ambers. As he piled up points in the fourth, fifth, and sixth sessions, it seemed that nothing could halt the upstate New Yorker from winning. He had come from behind to win those four rounds in a row, and when the seventh got underway, he was out in front by a slight margin. Herkimer Lou was chock full of confidence as he rushed from his corner. The crowd had seen Lou at his best in the four preceding sessions and was with him, almost to a man, judging by the wild acclaim that greeted him.

But that confidence proved Lou's undoing. He forgot for a moment that he was facing the hardest-hitting lightweight in the world in his Sweetwater, Texas, rival. Suddenly, the power that lurks in Lew's slight, skinny, and deceptive frame struck! A lightning left hook caught him flush on the mouth. Ambers went down.

Still smiling with confidence, he leaped up as knockdown timer Walsh shouted "one." But before Ambers could get set, a fusillade of lefts and rights crashed against body and jaw. The killing instinct had been aroused in the

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1941*

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Joe Louis
1. Max Baer
2. Arturo Godoy
3. Lou Nova
4. Lem Franklin
5. Eddie Blunt
6. Red Burman
7. Jim Thompson
8. Tony Shucco
9. Buddy Walker
10. Turkey Thompson

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Lew Jenkins
1. Sammy Angott
2. Jackie Wilson
3. Davey Day
4. Baby Breese
5. Dave Castilloux
6. Leo Rodak
7. Ray Robinson
8. Toby Vigil
9. George Latka
10. Aldo Spoldi

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Billy Conn
1. Jimmy Webb
2. Gus Lesnevich
3. Anton Christoforidis
4. Jimmy Bivins
5. Melio Bettina
6. Teddy Yarosz
7. Mose Brown
8. Pat Valentino
9. Erv Sarlin
10. Jimmy Reeves

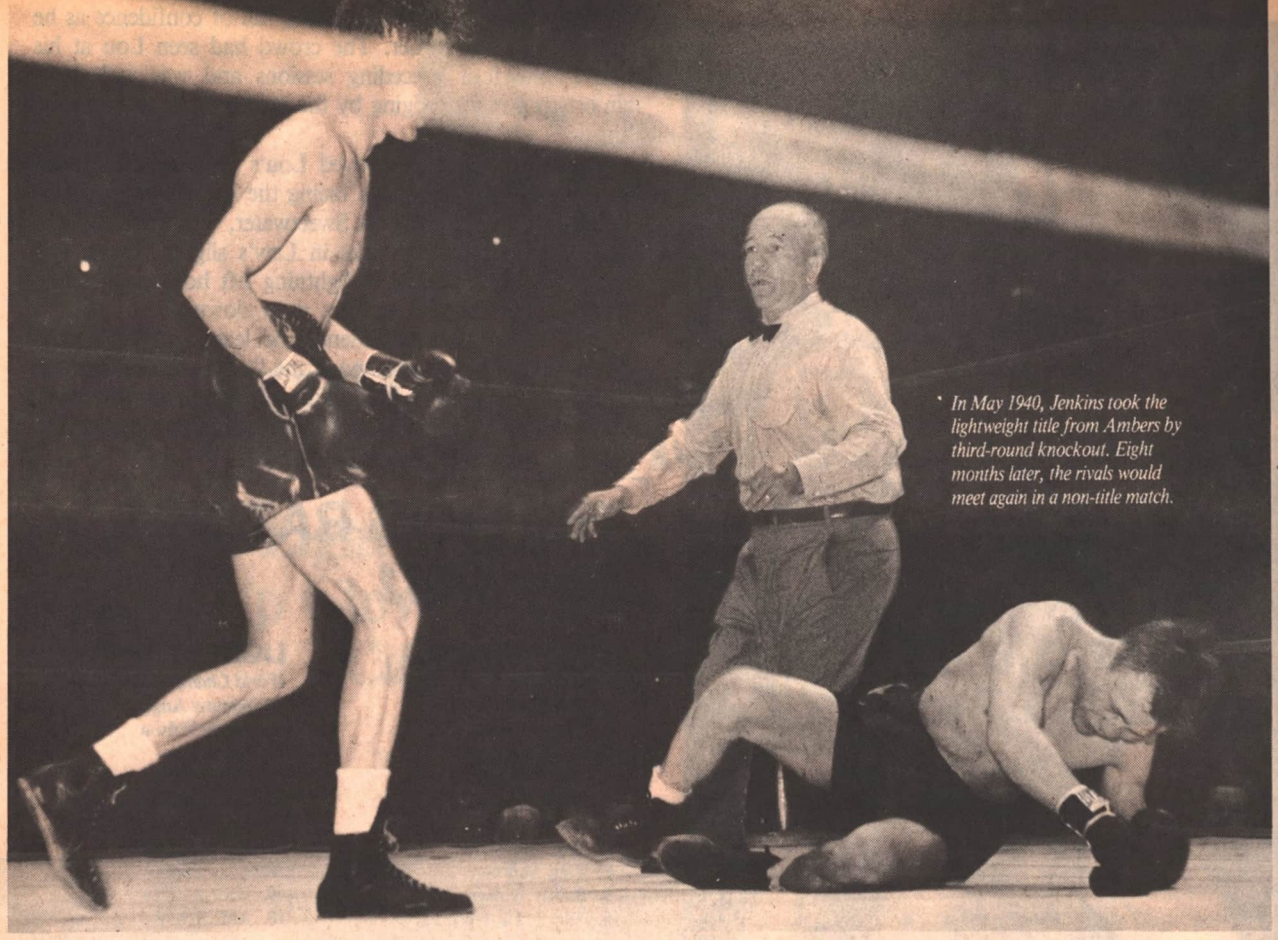
FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Harry Jeffra
1. Chalky Wright
2. Jackie Wilson
3. Jimmy Perrin
4. Bill Speary
5. Pete Scalzo
6. Maxie Shapiro
7. Mike Belloise
8. Sal Bartolo
9. Jimmy Kidd Hatcher
10. Lulu Constantino

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Ken Overlin
2. Tony Zale
3. Billy Soose
4. Georgie Abrams
5. Shorty Hogue
6. Steve Belloise
7. Al Hostak
8. Antonio Fernandez
9. Tami Mauriello
10. Ernie Vigh

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Lou Salica
2. Tommy Forte
3. Tony Olivera
4. Lou Transparenti
5. Jim Brady
6. Kid Tanner
7. Kui Kong Young
8. Frankie Donato
9. Freddie Pope
10. Horace Mann

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Fritzie Zivic
1. Izzy Jannazzo
2. Charley Burley
3. Mike Kaplan
4. Holman Williams
5. Tony Marteliano
6. Bob Montgomery
7. Jimmy Leto
8. Maxie Berger
9. Kid Azteca
10. Georgie Martin

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Title Vacant
1. Little Dado
2. Jackie Paterson
3. Manuel Ortiz
4. Little Pancho
5. Jackie Jurich
6. Jimmy Stubbs
7. Joe Curran
8. Jimmy Stewart
9. Paddy Ryan
10. Tiny Bostock



In May 1940, Jenkins took the lightweight title from Ambers by third-round knockout. Eight months later, the rivals would meet again in a non-title match.

champion, and he fired away at his helpless opponent. Nothing could stop Jenkins now! He had sensed the kill, and in true army spirit, he leaped forth to take full advantage of his opportunity.

In a jiffy, Ambers went limp. He could not straighten himself up to get out of range of the fierce attack. He seemed to place his chin forward as he stood clumsily facing his rival, and many a hot shot bounced off that chin before the fight was over.

With both hands flying, he caught Lou with staggering blows. A beautiful right under the heart made Ambers wince. The pain was terrific, for he complained to the referee that he had been hit low, but Arthur Donovan correctly nodded "no," and motioned the boys to fire away.

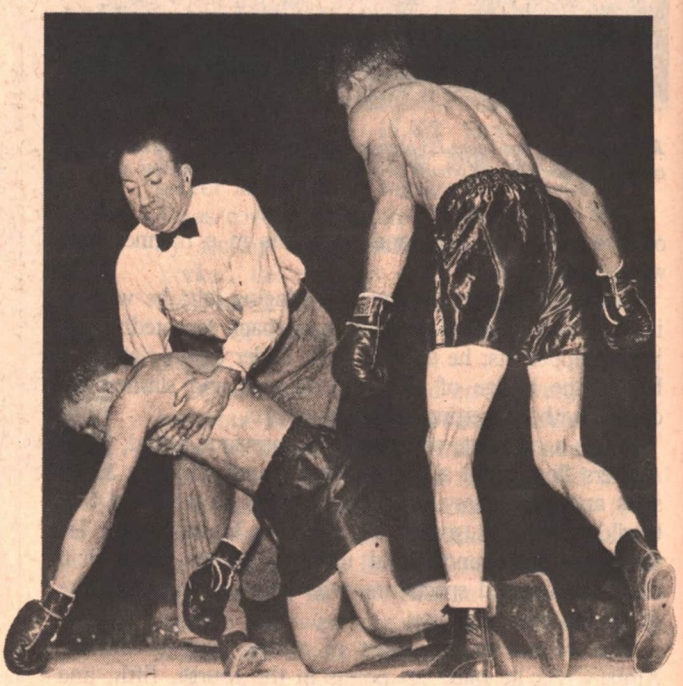
***

As Ambers tried to back away, Jenkins sneaked over a powerful left to the jaw. It staggered Lou. His legs became wobbly. Quick as a flash, out lashed Jenkins' right, and as it landed on the chin, down went Lou. This time he took a count of eight.

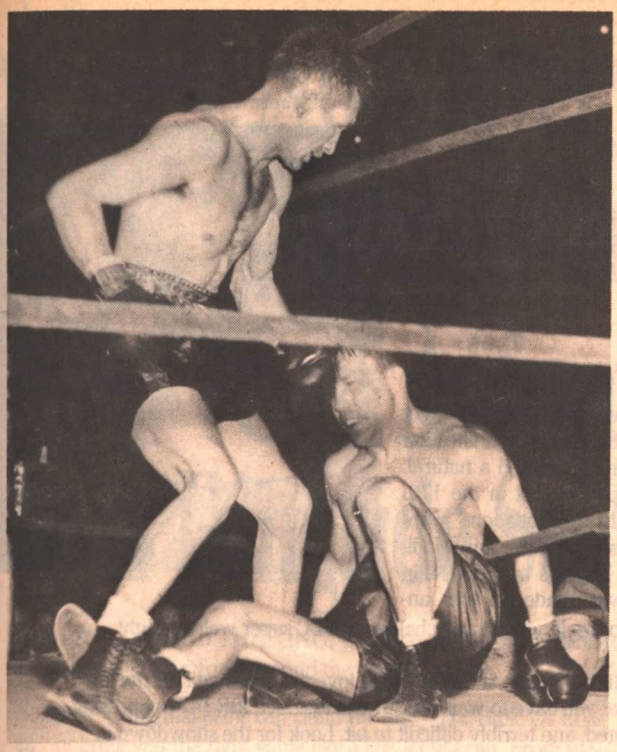
He dragged himself up with the aid of the ropes, but it was apparent to the throng of his admirers, who were yelling all kinds of advice, that their boy was doomed. Nothing could save him now. That short rest period was not sufficient for Ambers.

Jenkins swarmed all over his man. He shoved Donovan aside as Arthur tried to get between them, and again lashed out with lefts and right. Three blows, the last one a right, put Ambers down again, and this time referee Donovan rushed in and decided to call a halt. Ambers fell on all fours as he hit the deck for the final time. The end came at 2:26.

Just before the knockout, Ambers' chief of staff, Al Weill, shouted to the third man to stop the bout, and many in the big gathering did likewise. They hated to see the former champion take more punishment than was necessary.



Referee Arthur Donovan is about to rescue a badly battered Ambers. Only one round before, the former champion had seemed en route to a certain victory.



After taking control, Ambers became overconfident, a critical mistake against a puncher as dangerous as Jenkins. In round seven, he paid a terrible price.

Like Henry Armstrong, the man from whom he had regained the lightweight crown, Ambers went down fighting and passed out of the fistic picture as a true champion wants to end his fighting career. Herkimer Lou's performance endeared him to the hearts of the Garden fans. They will always remember him, as they will Armstrong, as a titleholder who always gave his best, and was the personification of sportsmanship.

***

"I've had my fling," said Ambers to the scribes in his dressing room. "Now let the youngsters have theirs. I've enjoyed my many years in the game, have made an army of friends, have saved much of my earnings, and have my health. I have my bearings and intend to keep them. Jenkins proved to me that my time has come. I'm hanging up my gloves and will call it quits."

With that he turned over to me his gloves to be placed in *The Ring* Museum. And so passed out of the picture a great little champion, a fighter who has been a credit to the sport, an inspiration to the youth of America.

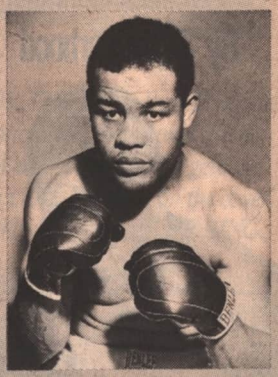
And now a few words about the victor, who was considerably riled by the shabby treatment he received from the throng in the Garden. Jenkins did nothing to warrant the abuse hurled at him from the moment he entered the ring until, in disgust, he leaped out before Harry Balogh, the announcer, could bring him to the microphone. True, Jenkins hit low twice in the sixth round, for which he was penalized, but that came long after the booing and hissing began. The fouls were unintentional but delivered, nevertheless, and had not Ambers won the round on its merits, which he did, he would have had it on a penalty.

For the benefit of boxing, such tactics as were pursued by Ambers' adherents should be abandoned by fair-minded fans. Let's hope that the ill-treatment accorded Jenkins in the Ambers mill will be the last. He's a fighting champ—give him the breaks he deserves. ■

THE RING, May 1941

The Cover: Stanley Weston's illustration of former heavyweight champion Gene Tunney bodes of the war to come. As a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy, Tunney teaches boxing for conditioning purposes. He explains the value of his lessons in a first-person cover story.

Fighting A Different Fight: Daniel M. Daniel examines the growing number of world-class fighters who have begun to teach boxing to enlisted men. Among them: Petey Sarron, Georgie Abrams (pictured), Bob Moha, and Steve Belloise.



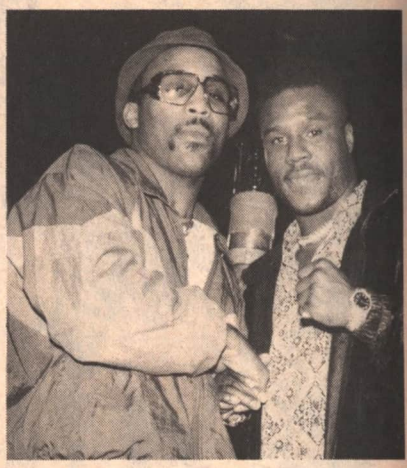
Number 14 For Joe: Publisher Nat Fleischer reports on heavyweight champion Joe Louis' second-round kayo of Gus Dorazio. In 1941, "The Brown Bomber" would successfully defend the title once a month from January through June. Dorazio, who attacked from the opening bell, proved little more than a 4½-minute workout.

Never A Surrender: Arthur Thompson reminisces about great fighters who, like Henry Armstrong during his stoppage loss to Fritzie Zivic, absorbed brutal beatings without surrender. Those featured include George Dixon (vs. Terry McGovern), Jimmy Wilde (vs. Pancho Villa), and Joe Gans (vs. Battling Nelson). Pictured: Gans and Nelson.

Ratings Of The Month: In his monthly ratings analysis, Eddie Borden explains that if he ranked fighters in two divisions, light heavyweight champion Billy Conn (pictured) would be placed first at heavyweight. At welterweight, Bob Montgomery jumped several notches after kayoing George Zengaras, and at lightweight, Sugar Ray Robinson landed at number seven after topping Bobby McIntyre, Gene Spencer, and Jimmy Tygh.

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



McGirt & Taylor: No rematch

THE BUDDY SYSTEM

After Buddy McGirt dethroned WBC welterweight champion Simon Brown last November, a unification battle vs. WBA titlist Meldrick Taylor seemed a natural. (In September 1988, Taylor stopped McGirt in the 12th round of a 140-pound title fight.) Negotiations were held between McGirt's promoters, Don King and Madison Square Garden Boxing, and Taylor's backers, Main Events. But before the fight was made, it was announced that Taylor had signed to rise in weight and challenge WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris.

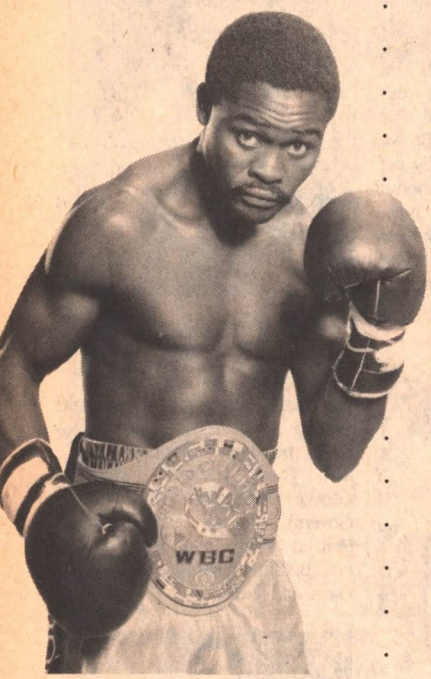
What, then, is left for Buddy? His manager, Al Certo, would love a defense against the unbeaten Julio Cesar Chavez, but that will have to wait. McGirt will first face IBF 147-pound king Maurice Blocker, who is tall, talented, and terribly difficult to hit. Look for the showdown in early-May.

Styles make fights, and you can bet that Blocker will give McGirt a lot more trouble than Brown did.

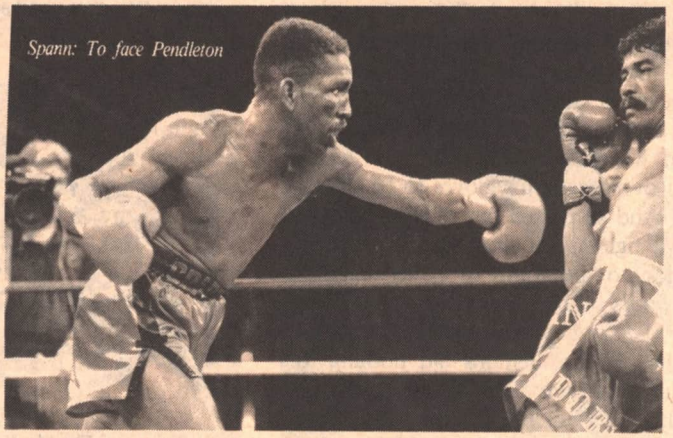
NELSON-FENECH POSTSCRIPT

WBC super featherweight champion Azumah Nelson plans to move up, maybe all the way to junior welterweight. After knocking out Jeff Fenech, Nelson called for Pernell Whitaker, who outpointed him in May 1990. A challenge of WBA 140-pound champion Edwin Rosario, however, is more likely. Rosario's contract with manager Bill Cayton expires on May 28. Look for "Chapo" to move into Don King's promotional stable.

As for Fenech, don't expect another retirement. His chin was dented by Nelson, but his brittle hands survived another fight. If Nelson moves up, Fenech may fight for the vacant WBC crown. His opposition? The best bet is California's Gabriel Ruelas.



Nelson: Moving up



Spann: To face Pendleton

LISTEN UP

On March 13, Top Rank won a purse bid to promote a bout between **Tracy Spann** and **Fred Pendleton**. (The winning bid was $151,101.) The lightweights will clash for the vacant IBF title. As of the latest alphabet ratings, the WBA and WBC still recognize **Pernell Whitaker** as 135-pound champion. Meanwhile, NABF lightweight champion **Frankie Mitchell** is seeking a 140-pound try at Whitaker . . . May 15 on HBO: **Michael Moorer** squares off with his toughest test to date, the revitalized **Smokin' Bert Cooper** . . . **Azumah Nelson's** victory over **Jeff Fenech** all but guaranteed that former IBF 130-pound champion **Brian Mitchell** will remain retired. Mitchell will consider a comeback only if matched with a big-name foe . . . Former WBA light heavyweight champion **Virgil Hill's** plans: a return to his native North Dakota for one fight, and then a challenge of WBC champion **Jeff Harding** in Australia. (Harding will first have to survive the challenge of France's **Christophe Tiozzo**.) ■

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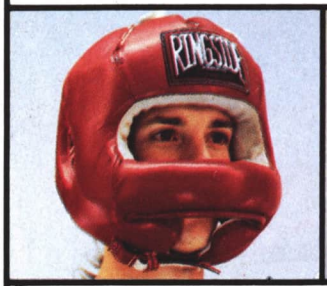

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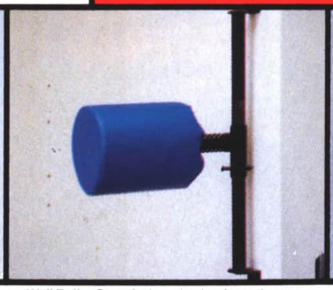

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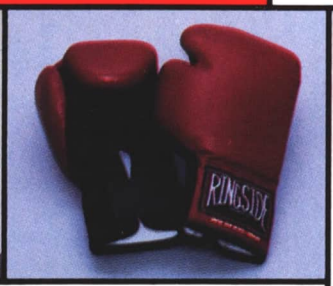

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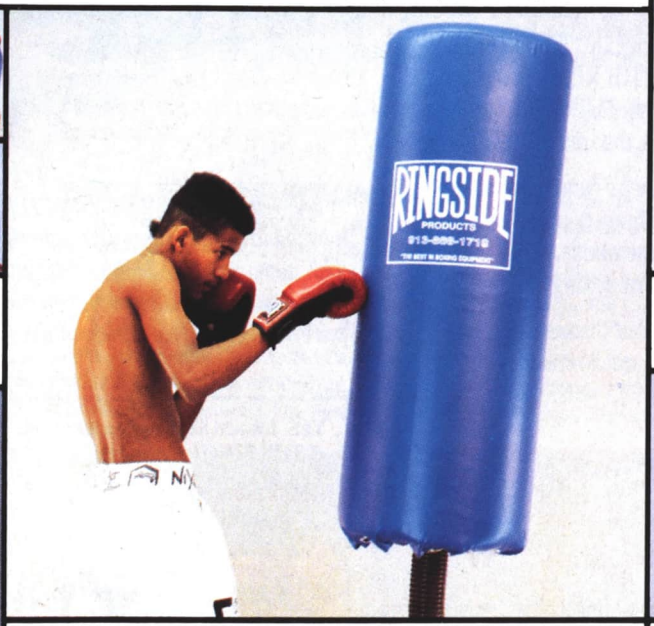

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